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Building societies force cut in savings bond rate as stock market loses billions

Treasury yields on mortgage threat

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND LINDSAY COOK

THE government last night moved to head off a run of politically damaging mortgage rate rises and a renewed slump in the housing market by cutting the interest rate on one of National Savings' most popular offerings.

Ministers responded to pressure from the building societies by announcing an interest cut on the First Option Bond of half of a percentage point to 7.25 per cent from noon today.

The move was prompted by last Friday's decision to by the Cheltenham & Gloucester to raise its mortgage rates. The building society said that it could no longer com-

pete with the savings rates offered by National Savings.

The Alliance & Leicester building society, the fourth largest, had earlier indicated that it would increase its basic rate today or tomorrow from 10.75 per cent. The move, expected to have been followed by other lenders, appeared last night to have spurred the government into making the National Savings rate less competitive. Michael Portillo, Treasury chief secretary, had hinted earlier that the action was being considered.

The decision came after a day in which the government's economic policy came under increased pressure, with falling share prices, a weakening pound and the mortgage rate threat. The Treasury was worried that the mortgage in-

creases would crush the tentative recovery in the housing market. The cut in the National Savings bond's interest should now prevent other societies from raising their mortgage rates.

The deteriorating economic news prompted government efforts to steady nerves by insisting that it would not be panicked into devaluation or interest rate cuts. Ministers underlined their determination to bear down heavily on public spending to cut government borrowing. Last night's decision will add to pressure on the government. The bond had been launched to help it to fund its huge borrowing requirement. Other methods will now have to be found.

John Major declared that there would be no return to the competi-

tive devaluations of the 1960s and 1970s. They had done terrible damage to British industry. "In future we will have to adjust our costs to our exchange rate rather than the other way round," he said.

Billions of pounds were wiped off shares with the FTSE index falling 64 points at one stage, and sterling dropping some 1.5 pennings against the mark.

With the cabinet due tomorrow to prepare for the most severe public expenditure round for a decade, Mr Portillo spoke of his objective to reduce government borrowing "very sharply" over the medium term. A squeeze on public investment in housing, roads and the inner cities is likely to be heralded tomorrow when the cabinet tells Mr Portillo to try to stick to

next year's public spending plan of £244.5 billion.

National Savings launched its First Option Bond on July 7. Since then thousands of building society customers have withdrawn their deposits and used them to buy the bond. National Savings said that sales had been higher than expected. "Treasury ministers have therefore decided to reduce the rates," it said. It launched the bond to help to fund the government's rising budget, which is forecast to reach £28 billion this year. Present holders will receive the higher interest rate for another year.

The Alliance & Leicester, which has 500,000 borrowers, said that it was likely to raise its rates following the Cheltenham & Gloucester's decision to do so last Friday. The

Halifax, Britain's largest building society, is to look at rates from now on on a daily basis. The Alliance & Leicester has noticed that withdrawals are being made in favour of National Savings and expect the money is destined for the one-year guaranteed bond launched on July 7. The society will increase the interest rate on its 90-day account, which is paying 6.75 per cent on £20,000. This is 1.3 percentage points less than the National Savings bond.

The First Option Bond received applications of £112 million in the first eight working days. Societies will report tomorrow that savers withdrew £315 million more than they invested in June.

Comment, page 21



Press gagged: David Mellor besieged by the media when he arrived for "business as usual" at his department in Horseguards Parade

Major gives Mellor full public support

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH the belief growing at Westminster that he will stand firm and survive media disclosures about his private life, David Mellor was yesterday given a public demonstration of support by the prime minister both to stay in his job and to retain responsibility for possible legislation on press intrusion.

Later the national heritage secretary returned to his department for what he insisted was business as usual, saying that he was particularly concerned about his children.

He paused briefly on the steps of the building overlooking St James's Park and told reporters: "I've made all the comment I'm going to make. Obviously, it's a very difficult time. We have made a statement and that is all I'm going to say. As far as I am concerned, my concern now is to be able to sort things out privately. I am particularly concerned about my two young children."

Suggestions of a potential conflict of interest between Mr Mellor's likely role in piloting possible privacy legislation through Parliament

and his position as someone who might claim to be a victim of abuse of his own privacy were dismissed by Downing Street. And Mr Major personally went out of his way to show that Mr Mellor had his unstinting support.

He did so by paying an impromptu call on Mr Mellor as he played host at a reception for his department's officials at the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Mr Mellor had planned the event to thank his officials, who are spread across several different Whitehall locations, for their work in getting the new department operational. After returning to Downing Street from a speaking engagement, the prime minister was reported to have asked about Mr Mellor and was told he was holding a party for his staff. He at once decided to attend and spent some 30 minutes talking to Mr Mellor and his officials. He left the officials in no doubt of his support.

Meeting called, page 2
Leading article, page 13



Maxwell held liable for £406m

BY FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN Maxwell (above) faces bankruptcy after the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd yesterday obtained final judgment for £406.5 million damages against him for breach of his duty as a director of the company.

The decision, announced by Mr Justice Mummery after a two-hour private High Court hearing, at which Mr Maxwell was neither present nor represented, means Kevin Maxwell is personally liable to pay the damages and could be made bankrupt if he

Continued on page 16, col 5

Bosnians flee as ceasefire collapses

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

THE United Nations yesterday suspended relief flights to the beleaguered Bosnian capital as battle raged across Sarajevo airport and UN officials took shelter from the crossfire. The fighting came despite a European Community ceasefire which should have come into effect on Sunday evening.

The closure of the airport came as the Bosnian refugee problem took a serious turn for the worse with 3,500 Muslims being refused entry by Croatia and with growing fears that another 3,500, already in the country, were about to be deported.

The EC decided yesterday to push for the expulsion of the rump Yugoslavia from the United Nations and all other world bodies after the collapse of the ceasefire. The 12 EC foreign ministers said in a statement they recognised the right of Serbia and Montenegro to proclaim a new, smaller Yugoslavia but that they did not accept this as the sole successor of the defunct federation. "In the light of this, the Community and its member states will oppose the partici-

pation of Yugoslavia in international bodies," the statement said.

Sarajevo airport lies between Bosnian Serb and government controlled suburbs and both sides were firing across the runway and terminal buildings rather than firing at them. Anthony Land, chief of operations for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said: "The airport is not the target, but shells are falling short."

The UN air bridge has been in operation for three weeks and 20 flights a day have been bringing much needed food for the people of Sarajevo who have been besieged for more than three months.

The general disregard for the ceasefire brokered last week by Lord Carrington, the EC negotiator, came as no surprise. General Anton Tus, the Croatian chief of staff, said the truce deadline had come too early for Bosnian Serbs who had not quite

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EC demand, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Germans lead operation to prop up dollar

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE world's leading central banks stepped in yesterday with a estimated \$750 million (£386 million) to shore up the collapsing dollar and choke off what was shaping up as a global crisis in the equity markets.

The Bundesbank, whose decision to tighten its monetary reins last week heightened tension in the foreign exchange markets and triggered a fall in share prices, spearheaded the army of central banks in a carefully co-ordinated action. After the rise in German interest rates investors feared that economic recovery would prove even more elusive than before.

The first wave of central bank intervention started at 2pm, as the dollar threatened to crash through the record low of DM1.4430 which it fell to in February last year. At its weakest yesterday, it was traded at DM1.4463. Political and economic uncertainty had been undermining market sentiment for the dollar in recent weeks. American recovery also remains elusive, despite seven cuts in US interest rates in the past year.

With American short-term interest rates about 6 per cent below German rates, since the last cut by the American authorities on July 2, the dollar has come under strong downward pressure. Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, sent the dollar lurching lower during the economic summit in Munich two weeks ago with remarks which suggested the administration was unperturbed by the declining currency. Worse-than-expected trade figures on Friday and the latest developments in the presidential election race intensified the pressure.

The Bundesbank opened the rescue action by aggressively selling marks for dollars at just above DM1.4550 to be quickly joined by America's Federal Reserve Bank and most of the leading central banks, including the Bank of England. Currency dealers said the Bank of England skilfully used the cover of the dollar rescue to intervene in support of the pound, which was trading as low as DM2.8283 at one point, its weakest since Britain entered the European exchange-rate mechanism in autumn 1990.

As the dollar action pushed back the mark, pressure eased on sterling and other ERM currencies. At the offi-

cial London market close at 4pm, the pound stood at DM2.8444, only about half a penny weaker than on Friday. Against the recovering dollar it was more than three cents weaker at \$1.9180.

Within 20 minutes of the initial round of central bank mark sales, the dollar had surged about four pennings higher. A second wave of intervention at around these levels followed during European trading hours, with a third wave following when the American markets were in full swing. At lunchtime in New York the dollar was trading at 1.4905 against the mark and up almost five cents against the pound at 1.9070. The action followed a five penny fall in the dollar over the past 10 days and growing concern that it was in danger of going into free fall.

Avinash Persaud, currency economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, does not believe the rescue mission will persuade the market to go long on dollars. David Simmonds, currency analyst at Midland Montagu, said yesterday's braking action highlighted the fact that Europe has a mark problem rather than a dollar problem.

Under pressure, page 17

TODAY IN THE TIMES

CLERICAL ENDEAVOUR



From skiving and shirking to overworking: Lynne Truss on the unfathomable peculiarities of office life
Life & Times page 1

THEATRICAL PLEASURE



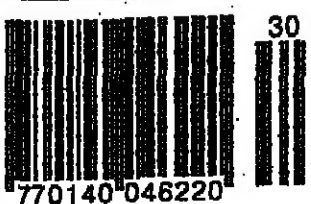
Pauline Collins on why the lure of the West End stage beats that of the Hollywood studio
Life & Times page 3

PERSONAL TERROR



Neil Lyndon on how fear of inflicting pain led him to lay down his gun
Life & Times page 1

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Cheques bounce bankers into libel payment

BY ROBIN YOUNG

BANKS, the institutions who love to say yes, who pride themselves on listening, and who say they are behind every small business success, face a new danger. If they bounce cheques unjustly they could be sued for libel.

Lloyds Bank yesterday paid a "substantial" but undisclosed sum in libel damages to a business couple whose cheques were wrongly bounced and endorsed "refer to drawer".

The settlement, which could lead to other writs against banks who erroneously refuse to honour cheques, was announced in the High Court yesterday, when Brian and Margaret Allen of Spalding, Lincolnshire, and their slaughterhouse company, D Allen and Sons (Butchers) Ltd, were awarded damages and costs against Lloyds over cheques which were returned in 1983.

Mr Justice Drake was told that the Allens were away on holiday in America when the cheques were dishonoured. Michael Tugendhat, QC, said a number of cheques issued by the Allens' company to suppliers were returned unpaid by the bank. The bills remained unpaid until the Allens returned from holiday to sort the matter out. The couple launched libel proceedings, Mr Tugendhat said, to eradicate publicly any doubt about their financial soundness.

Julian Malins, for Lloyds, told the court that the bank had agreed to pay a substantial sum to compensate the Allens for the damage and embarrassment they had suffered. He said that the cheques had not been met because of "a misunderstanding".

Afterwards Mr Allen, whose business has since closed as a result of fire attacks by animal rights groups, said: "It has taken a long time. The main thing is far

as we were concerned was the apology."

Mr Allen's solicitor, James Sutton, said: "Actions like this are very expensive and time consuming. It takes a great deal of stamina and financial backing, but Mr Allen was very determined."

Mr Allen would not reveal the exact amount of damages under yesterday's confidential settlement, but he did say that they ran into thousands.

The Consumers' Association, which has been sharply critical of the standards of banks' services, said that it had never heard of bank being sued for libel before.

There is already at least one other case pending, against Barclays. They are being sued by Crimpill, a textile company in Aberargoed, Mid Glamorgan, which claims that its reputation was defamed by the words "refer to drawer, please represent" on three cheques which the bank did not honour.

VACHERON CONSTANTIN
Geneva, since 1755

Asprey

Lord Taylor wants choice of sentence for murder

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice yesterday gave the clearest indication that he wanted the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for murder to be abolished.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth was speaking during an appeal by a battered wife convicted of murder who is challenging the basis of the present law on provocation. Lord Taylor told the court: "There may be a great deal to be said for the mandatory life sentence going."

Later he added that the defence of provocation and diminished responsibility were a way of getting around the sentence. "This is all designed to find some way around the mandatory life sentence," he said during the appeal by Kiranjit Ahluwalia against her conviction for murdering her husband after

a ten-year marriage that had become a "charter for slavery".

Lord Justice Taylor, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Judge, was told that the murder conviction should be quashed because the judge misdirected the jury on the law of provocation and because there was fresh evidence that at the time of the killing, she was suffering from diminished responsibility.

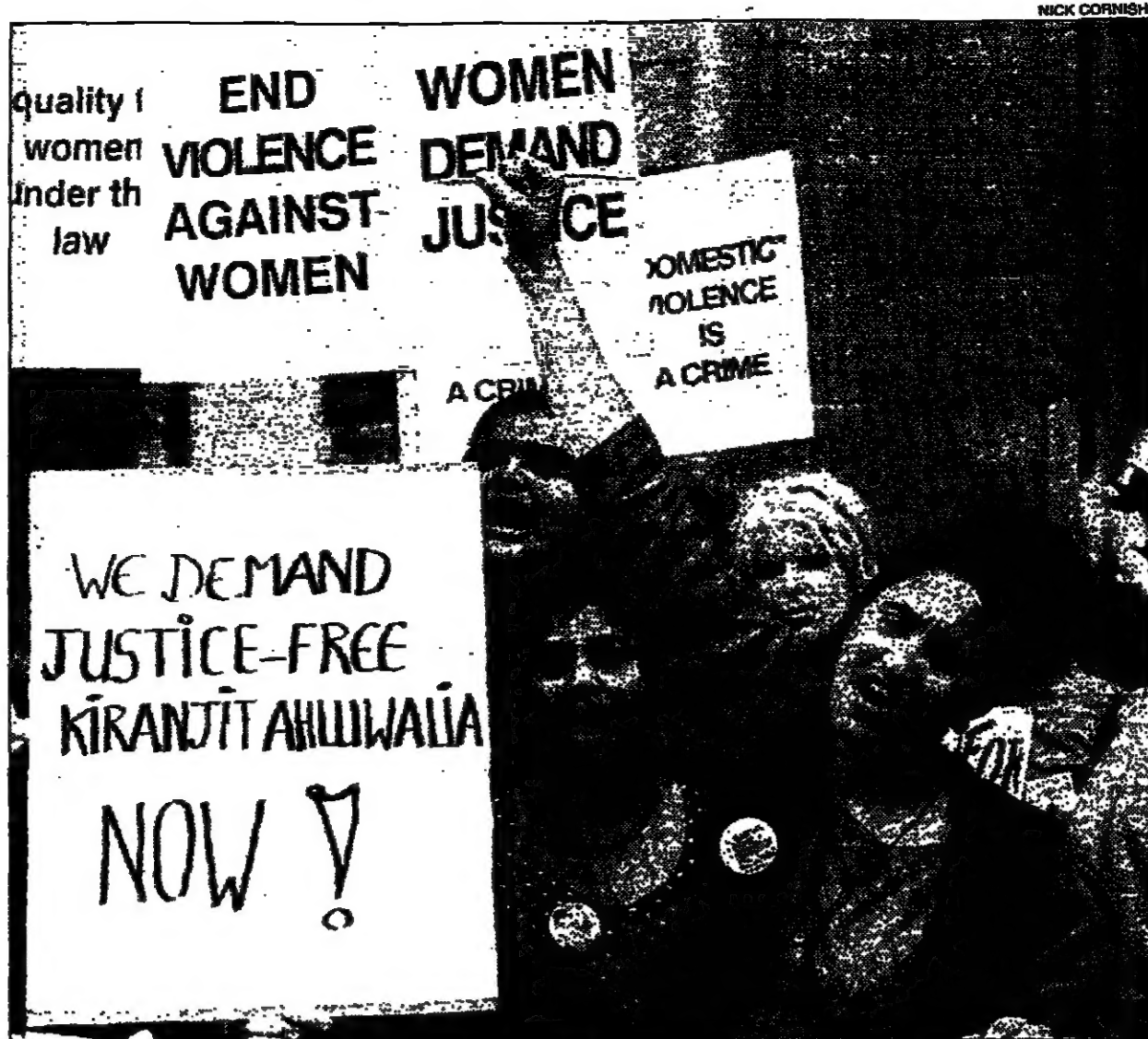
Ahluwalia, aged 36, from Crawley, West Sussex, was jailed for life for murder after her plea of guilty to manslaughter through provocation was rejected. She threw petrol over her husband's duvet and set fire to him after being subjected to years of brutality.

At present, the defence of provocation must include "sudden and temporary" loss of self-control, but yesterday Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Ahluwalia, urged the appeal court to rule that long-standing violence and humiliation of women by their partners should be treated by the courts as provocation.

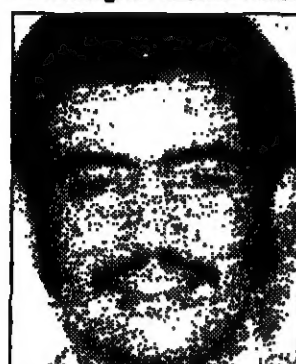
Women who experienced being beaten and humiliated, bottled up their emotions until the dam broke and they poured out. "There is slow-burn provocation which takes its time to work," he said. "In this case, the state of someone toiling and turning in the early hours of the morning."

Mr Robertson said a slow-burn process had been at work in the events leading to Ahluwalia's attack on her husband Dipak. She had suffered violence in her marriage that reached intolerable levels in 1986 and before the killing in 1989.

She had written him a letter that showed her as a woman who had reached the nadir of self-abasement. In it she begged for ten minutes of his time and promised never to drink black coffee, eat green chilli, go to town every week or attend a friend's wedding.



Freedom fighters: women's groups supporting Mrs Ahluwalia outside the High Court in London



Dipak Ahluwalia: burnt in petrol attack



Kiranjit Ahluwalia: ten years of brutality

ding. She said she would eat more food to please him because he liked bigger women and would not laugh if he did not like it.

In the two hours before she went to bed, her husband had beaten her, threatened her with a hot iron and told her she would be beaten the following morning unless she gave him money. Mr Robertson said. After almost three hours in bed, she went out of the house, poured petrol into a bucket, lit a candle and then attacked her husband.

But the Lord Chief Justice questioned whether this was a loss of self-control. He said all her actions in getting the petrol and carrying out the attack were "not the smack of loss of self-control, it smacks rather of deliberation".

He added: "Your slow-burn and brooding is not very difficult to distinguish from a decision to give somebody his come-uppance. That is a matter of public policy that people must not take the law into their own hands."

The hearing continues

Mellor relationship

Complaints meeting called

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the Press Complaints Commission have been called to an emergency meeting tomorrow to decide whether *The People* was justified in intruding on the privacy of David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, over his relationship with an unemployed Spanish actress.

Lord McGregor of Durris, the chairman, is understood to believe that the newspaper's report was not in the public interest, and therefore contravened the industry's code of practice.

Nobody has yet complained to the PCC about the article, which was followed up yesterday with widespread press coverage and a picture in the *Daily Mirror* of a bed

allegedly used by the couple.

The commission's articles of association empower it to launch an investigation into how an allegedly verbatim telephone conversation between Mr Mellor and Antonia de Sancha was obtained and whether it broke PCC rules on privacy. The commission will issue a statement tomorrow.

Lord McGregor is understood to have the backing of the commission's lay members, together with some industry representatives and at least one editor in his view that *The People* had no public interest justification.

The newspaper code of practice rules out tapping telephone conversations or bugging to obtain information unless it is in the public interest. Intrusions and enquiries into an individual's private life without consent are not acceptable unless necessary to detect and expose crime or anti-social conduct, protect public health and safety, or prevent the public from being misled by a public figure.

Bill Hagerty, editor of *The People*, said disclosure of the relationship was in the public interest because it allegedly interfered with the cabinet minister's ability to do his job. Mr Mellor had allegedly been too tired to write two speeches. But Mr Hagerty denied that phones had been tapped, or that the tabloid had paid £40,000 for the story. He would not say whether the room had been wired.

Mr Mellor, who warned the press two years ago that privacy laws would be implemented unless newspapers cleaned up their act, is now in the invidious position of having to supervise the government's enquiry into press intrusion into privacy.

But the PCC will not consider or comment on whether

Mr Mellor should relinquish the responsibility because of a conflict of interest. Yesterday, the government made clear that Mr Mellor would remain responsible for introducing new laws — if required — on privacy and press intrusion.

Stewart Stevens, editor of London's *Evening Standard*, said he thought Mr Mellor would now find it impossible to steer a privacy bill through Parliament. "I would find it difficult to take him wholly seriously on that matter," he said. Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian* and a PCC member, said: "It is difficult to see how Mr Mellor could promote any legislation on privacy."

Some MPs also said Mr Mellor would not now be objective enough to rule on issues of privacy. The press, Robert Croyer, Labour MP for Bradford South, said: "It is easy to discredit legislation by saying that the minister who is piloting it through the House of Commons is doing it to protect himself. There is a perfectly good argument for some degree of privacy and it will be discredited if David Mellor is in charge of the bill."

Mr Mellor, who appointed Sir David Calcutt QC, earlier this month to assess whether self-regulation should continue, be modified or made statutory, had ironically been the biggest supporter of the press in the cabinet. He was reluctant to introduce privacy laws or statutory controls.

If recommendations made by the 1990 Calcutt report into privacy and the press are implemented, physical intrusion and the use of listening devices would become criminal offences.

Mellor backed, page 1
Who cares?, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Expatriate sun sets over Borchester

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ENGLISH archers may have won the day at Agincourt, but the present generation of British expatriates are in a panic that *The Archers* are deserting them.

In 18 months' time, the estimated 500,000 British expatriates who live on the Continent will be denied the lifeline with the mother country provided by Radio Four. The imperial tradition of tuning in at seven every evening to *The Archers* will be ended.

Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing director-general of the BBC, announced last week that come 1984, Radio Four's long wave frequency will be devoted instead to a round-the-clock rolling news

programme, and that the world's premier speech radio station will be available only on FM, a frequency that cannot easily be picked up abroad.

Expatriates will hear nothing of Elizabeth's abortion, Ruth's pregnancy, or Eddie's badly-aimed swipe at Jean-Pierre, but they will hear much of Sarajevo and the Democratic primaries.

Sir Michael claimed that there was an increasing demand for live on-the-spot coverage of unfolding events, delivered in an accessible and informative way. *The News*, a weekly newspaper for British expatriates published in the Dordogne, disagrees heartily. An editorial this week fulminates: "Even in the most Francophile households, the crackling emissions of Auntie's fourth programme will vie for attention with France Musique — and win."

A BBC spokesman could offer no hope yesterday of reprieve, and could only suggest that overseas-dwelling Britons come home. Good-bye Borchester, hello Bosnia.

DEGREE RESULTS

During the next two months, *The Times* will publish in full the results of all classes from all universities and former polytechnics, making it the most complete service of its kind.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schoolboy cleared of father's murder

A teenager who stabbed his father to death to end years of violent attacks on his mother ran sobbing into her arms yesterday as he was cleared of murder at Bristol Crown Court on the direction of the judge. Mr Justice McKinnon told the 15-year-old boy: "Self-defence is a complete defence to murder and manslaughter. This is a complete answer to both counts on this indictment."

The court was told that the boy's mother was usually covered in bruises from repeated drunken attacks by her husband. The 13-year marriage ended in 1987, but the father, a decorator aged 36, continued to visit the family home in Bristol to see his four children. Last November, he went to the house and, after an argument, threatened to kill his ex-wife. As he chased her with a bread knife, the boy stabbed him. The boy had told police: "He was just about to stab my ma. I went to stab him in the arm but as he went to open the door, he moved and I stabbed him in the back." After the case, the boy, who had denied murder and manslaughter, said: "It's brilliant — I just can't wait to go home."

Police drag pond

Police divers dragged a pond on Wimbledon Common yesterday but found no trace of the weapon used to kill Rachel Nickell last week. A reconstruction of the murder is planned for tomorrow morning. Detectives, who have already received about 1,000 calls from the public, yesterday renewed their appeal for information and witnesses. They want to interview anyone near the scene of the murder between 9 and 11am on Wednesday morning. Police believe that there were three or four people near the scene at 10.15am who have not yet come forward. Rachel's parents, who were on holiday in Canada, learnt of her death last night.

Janet Daley, page 12

Chase boy remanded

A boy aged 14 who appeared in court 32 times in nine months was remanded to a secure unit in Oxford yesterday for 28 days after crashing a car. He had fled a Norwich assessment centre twice last weekend. He was detained after a resident in Blechny, Buckinghamshire, arrested him shortly after a Ford Granada was taken, crashed into a fence and then reversed into a parked vehicle. The boy appeared at Milton Keynes magistrates' court accused of taking a car without consent and breach of bail. He was on bail after a high speed police chase across three counties in which he was a passenger in a stolen car.

Food poisoning up

The number of cases of food poisoning is up 25 per cent on last year, according to government statistics. As of July 3, 26,473 cases had been reported since the start of the year, compared with 21,154 in the same period in 1991. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said. More detailed figures from the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre suggest even higher increases in specific types of poisoning. Cases of the salmonella strain most often linked with eggs and poultry are 88 per cent higher than last year. The Public Health Laboratory Service said, however, that because of a change in the method of collecting the data this year's figures were not strictly comparable. A spokesman said there had also been computer errors which were now being rectified.

Tribute to Queen

The prime minister and four of his predecessors, including Margaret Thatcher, will attend a dinner for the Queen at the Duke of Edinburgh's Palace in London on Monday to mark the 25th anniversary of her reign. The Prime Minister and Princess of Wales will also attend the biggest prime ministerial gathering since 1985, when the Queen was guest at a similar event to mark the 25th anniversary of No. 10 Downing Street. The joint hosts will be John and Norma Major, Baroness Thatcher and Sir Denis Thatcher, Lord and Lady Callaghan of Cardiff, Sir Edward Heath and Lord and Lady Widdowson of Rievaulx. Lord Home of the Hirsel has been invited, but at 89, is thought to be too frail to travel from the Scottish borders. The Queen is the sixth-longest reigning monarch since the Norman Conquest, and Mr Major is her ninth prime minister. Those whom death has denied attendance at Monday's dinner are Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden Earl of Avon, and Harold Macmillan, Earl of Stockton.



Turner Prize choice

Damien Hirst, a controversial exhibitor in the Saatchi Collection's current Young British Artists exhibition, is one of four artists short-listed to win the Turner Prize, the art world's laurel for modern achievement, it was announced yesterday. "He can be tough, but he can be witty," said Richard Cork, the art critic of *The Times*, of Hirst, 27, whose piece *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living* has a cow's head being eaten by bluebotflies. The £20,000 prize, administered by the Tate Gallery, is for a British artist under 50 who has made an outstanding exhibition or presentation of work in the year to June 30. Also on the short list are David Tremlett and Grenville Dave, two Cornish sculptors, and Alison Wilding, a sculptor who had a retrospective at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool.

Clowes to appeal

Peter Clowes, founder of the collapsed Barlow Clowes investment business, who started a ten-year jail sentence for fraud in February, has been given leave to appeal against his convictions. Leave was given by a judge sitting in private, who also granted leave to Peter Naylor, jailed for 18 months for theft as a "lieutenant" of Clowes. Clowes, 49, of Wiltshire, Cheshire, was jailed by a Central Criminal Court judge on February 11 for 18 offences of theft and making false statements involving millions of pounds of investors' money. Naylor, 36, from Send, near Woking, Surrey, was jailed for stealing £19,000 from clients. The appeals will be heard in London later this year.

Russians inspect army

Nine Russian military inspectors flew in to RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, yesterday to check on the army's tanks and artillery stocks. They are the first to demand an inspection since the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty came into force at the end of last week. Scampton, home of the Red Arrows aerobatic display team, is the base for Britain's 124-strong joint arms control implementation group and one of the entry points for CFE inspectors. The Russians will not disclose where they want to go until this morning. They are entitled to travel within 25 square miles of the point of entry. Britain is set to receive 30 CFE inspections and a further 17 in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar over the next three months. A British team arrived in Bulgaria at the weekend to carry out inspections.

Britons find hot star

British scientists have discovered what may be the hottest star in our galaxy with a temperature 70 per cent higher than the sun's and 1,700 times hotter than a boiling kettle. Astronomers from the Science and Engineering Research Council found the star using a camera telescope mounted on the Rosat satellite. They were making the first survey of the sky at extreme ultra violet wavelengths and also found a number of previously unknown white dwarf stars.

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APOLLO

Defendant takes stand for first time in Shaughnessy murder trial

Husband's mistress tells of her jealousy as wedding guest

BY PETER VICTOR

THE woman accused of stabbing to death Alison Shaughnessy entered the witness box for the first time yesterday and described her feelings of jealousy when her boy friend told her he planned to marry Alison.

Michelle Taylor told the jury at the Old Bailey that she had slept with her alleged victim's fiancé the night before their wedding. Miss Taylor said her trip to Ireland for the wedding had been paid for by the couple. She stayed in bed and breakfast accommodation and then at Mr Shaughnessy's hotel at his suggestion.

After a party the night before the wedding, which the victim did not attend, Mr Shaughnessy invited Miss Taylor to his room, she said. "I stayed there the night," she said. "Asked what happened, she replied: 'We slept together.'"

Miss Taylor, 21, and her sister Lisa, 18, of Forest Hill, south London, deny murdering Mrs Shaughnessy at her

Battersea flat on June 3 last year. She earlier told the jury she had first slept with Mr Shaughnessy in March 1989. She had made an entry in her diary for that day, "SWJ" - "Slept with John".

She said she also went on the pill after discussing it with him. Miss Taylor said she had joined the Churchill Clinic in July 1987 when she was 16, working as a sales clerk. Mr Shaughnessy was already a member of staff. In 1989 she had an operation on her knee at the clinic and received visits from other staff, including Mr Shaughnessy. After that there was a change in their relationship.

"We became very close," she told the jury. "John would always be around and came to see me. Some time in January he asked me out for a drink and I went. After that things just seemed to progress." She said Mr Shaughnessy was "making the running". He wore a ring

on his engagement finger, but when she asked him about it he told her he "just wore that ring on that finger".

After they began sleeping together in March 1989 she went on holiday with her family. When she returned she went out to dinner with Mr Shaughnessy.

"Whilst we were there, he told me he was getting engaged and married the following year," she said. "I walked out and went back to my mum. I was very upset and hurt. I didn't speak to him for a couple of months. He called me at work but I avoided the phone calls." She told the jury: "John was my boy friend and I was his girl friend and I loved him."

Asked what her feelings were towards Alison at the time of the wedding, Michelle said: "I liked her but at that time I was jealous." She had been very upset when she first learnt of Mr Shaughnessy's engagement. She changed her job, however, at the Churchill private health clinic in Lambeth, south London, and she and Mr Shaughnessy had to work closer together. "First of all it was just friends," she said. "Then it seemed to go back to being how it was - it involved having sex."

Asked why she returned to the relationship, she said: "Because I still loved him, still cared for him." Her feelings changed after the wedding.

She was asked by Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, about the diary entry in which she referred to her hatred for Alison, describing her as "an unwashed bitch" and the "dream solution" of her disappearing from the scene.

"This has been put forward as a declaration of you wanting Alison out," Mr Ferguson said. "That is not true," she replied. "I just meant for her not to have been there from the beginning." Miss Taylor conceded that at one stage she had been very jealous of Alison, but added that she had hated her only "for a couple of days". Asked about

another diary entry, when she had written "Sick, sick, sick", after hearing Mr Shaughnessy sing happy birthday to Alison and declare his love for her, Miss Taylor told the jury: "I just could not understand how John could tell her he loved her and be going on with me at the same time." She agreed she was still having sex with Mr Shaughnessy on occasions at the end of 1990.

Questioned by Mr Ferguson on her feelings about the Shaughnessys' relationship, she said: "I did not think he loved Alison but he cared for her and they got on really well together."

She denied thinking that she and Mr Shaughnessy would get together or that he might divorce Alison.

Miss Taylor said that by the time of Mrs Shaughnessy's murder she felt Mr

Shaughnessy was "just a friend". They had not made love for months and she considered their affair over.

Earlier she described events on the day Mrs Shaughnessy died. Miss Taylor and her sister went shopping in Bromley, arriving between 3.15 and 3.20pm. She said she had not taken her credit card. It had been used at 3.20pm at a bank near the clinic in Lambeth - but not by her, she said.

She went to arrange flowers in the clinic with Mr Shaughnessy and gave him a lift home after he asked her to pick up some heavy pots from his flat. When they went in, he was ahead of her, she said.

"As he reached the first landing he started shouting 'Alison, Alison'. I could see Alison lying there. I went up to her and tried to pick her up. At first I thought she had

collapsed, but when I could not pick her up I went to feel her pulse and there was no pulse. She was really cold - just like stone. I cannot remember how I reacted."

"I went to the pub and asked them to ring the police. I went back to the flat with a lady and some men from the pub." She then pulled Mrs Shaughnessy's skirt down, she told the jury. Asked how she had felt, she replied "sick", adding that she had opened a window to get some fresh air.

Miss Taylor claimed that only three weeks after his wife's death, Mr Shaughnessy tried to have sex with her again, while she was staying with his family in Ireland. "I was totally disgusted at him," she said. "I told him he was very confused and needed to sort himself out."

The trial continues today.



Accused: Michelle Taylor arriving yesterday at the Old Bailey

Covent Garden freezes wages

BY SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

COVENT Garden might have to launch its appeal for £90 million this autumn against a backdrop of a dark theatre if the 1,050 staff do not accept a wage freeze. Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, said yesterday that wages will be frozen for at least a year from September, when the new season opens, because of increasing financial problems.

He said the Arts Council grant, sponsorship and box office receipts had fallen too low to offer an increase to staff for the 1992-3 season. Last year, 40 staff were made redundant to cut costs and in his four years in charge Mr Isaacs has faced pay strikes by dancers and musicians that have disrupted programmes.

The opera house operation, which includes the Royal Opera, Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet, has an accumulated deficit of £3.3 million, and despite an artistically successful current season Mr Isaacs said he sees no alternative to a pay freeze. "We have been forced to freeze wages which will give us a chance of breaking even in this fiscal year."

Some productions planned for the forthcoming season, such as a new staging of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, have had to be postponed. No productions for the new season have so far attracted any new sponsors.

Mr Isaacs wrote to the unions last week and was awaiting their response yesterday. Becu, representing non-performing staff, is to meet its Covent Garden members on Friday.

Equity said that the proposal was very serious and the matter would be put to its Covent Garden members. Tony Lucas, the Musicians' Union's general secretary, said he expected the opera house orchestra, currently on a tour of Japan, would be "very disappointed at a pay cut in real terms at a time of recession".

□ The National Theatre management and Becu are to return to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service after a vote by union members for strike action in protest at an imposed 4.5 per cent pay rise.

Parking watchdog heralds reforms

BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S Byzantine parking regulations came closer to reform yesterday when Nick Lester, a former planning and transport officer of the Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities, and a seasoned campaigner against illegal parking, began work as the new London parking director.

Mr Lester's appointment marks the beginning of a process that will culminate in the extension of wheel clamping and vehicle removals to all 33 London boroughs by April 1994. He will be responsible for overseeing the introduction of the capital's new parking regime, which includes higher fines and increased enforcement.

Under the new Road Traffic Act, traffic wardens will be deployed exclusively on the red route and double-yellow-line network. Local authorities, however, will be able to recruit their own uniformed parking attendants.

Although details of the new fines are not expected to be finalised until December, the existing flat-rate £16 ticket is likely to be withdrawn, and replaced by a series of fine bands. The proposals include placing central London in a higher £40 band, and suburban town centres such as Croydon, Uxbridge and Walthamstow in a middle £30 band, leaving all other areas subject to a £20 band. In an effort to encourage compliance, fines paid within 14 days will be discounted by 25 per cent.

At present, there are an estimated 300,000 parking offences in central London alone every day.

A new adjudication service will be created, replacing the magistrates' courts for motorists who feel they have been unjustly ticketed, clamped or removed. Complainants will be able to appeal to local authorities, which can cancel tickets. Motorists will also have a right to appeal to independent adjudicators.

Mr Lester hopes that the number of complaints will be kept to a minimum by introducing a code of practice for dealing with disputes, such as clamping or removing cars driven by women at night.



Victim: Alison Shaughnessy on her wedding day

Spanish student 'was raped twice in cab'

A SPANISH student told a court yesterday that she was raped twice in the back of a black London taxi cab that she had hailed because she thought it was safe and was frightened of walking the streets in the early hours.

Frank Welton, 25, of Camden, the offences against the 22-year-old woman, which were allegedly committed on her way from a party with friends from her English class in central London to her home in west London on February 17.

Sally Bennett-Jenkins, for the prosecution, said there was no dispute that Mr Welton had had sexual intercourse with the woman. In an interview with police, Mr Welton had said he was chatting to her and decided he would "try his luck". He told her she was attractive and kissed her. She responded,

and they made love; the court was told.

Mr Welton had dropped her off at her home and her boy friend woke to find her standing by the bed, crying and with clothes dishevelled.

"She said she had been violated," Miss Bennett-Jenkins said. Miss Welton was arrested on February 18 when he went to a police station after the rape was reported on the radio. Miss Bennett-Jenkins said: "He told them he had sex with a Spanish girl the night before in his cab and it was consensual."

But the woman said yesterday the driver stopped the cab after about five minutes and got into the back with her. She claimed he raped her and then resumed the journey. Later, she said, he again stopped the cab and attacked her for the second time. The hearing continues today.

Video explains court procedures to jurors

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of people who turned up for jury service yesterday were shown a new video that explains how the criminal court works and the part a juror plays in it.

The 20-minute video, devised by the Lord Chancellor's department under the umbrella of the Citizen's Charter, breaks new ground in the range of information it gives jurors. It is a huge advance on the old idea of an informal talk by a member of the court staff.

The video explains how jurors are selected as well as giving details of jury service, such as being sworn in, raising queries, what time to arrive, the likelihood of delay and how to claim expenses.

The video also seeks to explain the mysterious procedures of the criminal courts

themselves. Jurors are told who the key participants are, where they stand, what they wear and what their task is.

One of the biggest bugbears of being a juror, delay, is also tackled, with an apology in advance. "You may sometimes have to wait at court for what may seem an unnecessarily long time," the video says.

There are some odd omissions: jurors are told that they may be challenged by defence or prosecution lawyers, but not told why. They are told they must select a foreman when they retire, but not told how to. They are not told if they can take notes.

The video, the cost of which the department would not disclose, is being shown at 80 crown court centres in England and Wales.

Jesus 'was a divorced father-of-three'

A NEW interpretation of the Dead Sea scrolls that strikes at the heart of the New Testament and orthodox Christianity is certain to arouse fierce debate when it is published in Britain in September.

According to Barbara Thiering, an Australian theologian and biblical scholar, Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene, had three children and later divorced. Her book *Jesus The Man*, is unlikely to convince the large number of scholars who believe the scrolls predate the time of Christ.

Dr Thiering, a lecturer in the school of divinity at Sydney university, will claim that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was not a virgin in the modern sense of the word but a "nun", the word for devout unmarried women of the time.

She believes Jesus was given poison on the cross which rendered him unconscious, and argues that his followers revived him with myrrh and aloes. She claims he was already married to Mary Magdalene and lived for another 30

Ruth Gledhill foresees controversy over a book claiming that Jesus married twice, had children and survived the cross

years after the resurrection, travelling alongside his disciples with a message that became the starting point for Christianity. She says Jesus fathered a girl before the crucifixion and two boys afterwards.

After the birth of the second son in March, AD 44, Mary Magdalene decided to leave her husband. Jesus went on to marry for a second time, she says, adding that his new wife was Lydia, a Hellenist woman bishop from west Asia Minor.

Dr Thiering, who has spent 20 years studying the Dead Sea scrolls and speaks Greek and Hebrew, says she loves God and prays all the time, but does not believe Jesus is God. She has been strongly criticised that her aim is to attack faith. She wants to break through religious inhibition to what she consid-

ers a more honest religion. Her book begins with a history of Jesus and the surrounding political scene and ends with a long academic justification for her argument. She says that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were members of the Essene settlement at Qumran on the Dead Sea, 25 miles east of Jerusalem.

The Bethlehem referred to in the gospels as the birthplace of Jesus was an alternative Bethlehem founded at Qumran, she says. Despite the widely-held theory that the scrolls describe people living before the time of Jesus, Dr Thiering insists they are about Jesus and John the Baptist.

Her theory is that the gospels have two levels of meaning: a surface level of miracles and parables, and a deeper level in which the true facts are disguised. Using her knowledge of the

scrolls, she believes she has cracked the code that discloses the deeper meaning.

In the book, published by Doubleday, she says the virgin birth is dealt with in only two of the four gospels. She writes: "Those same two gospels give a genealogy which says that Jesus was descended from King David through his father Joseph: a complete contradiction." She adds: "Nowhere is the virgin birth mentioned in the rest of the New Testament, and in fact, Paul says very clearly that Jesus was 'of the seed of David.'"

The myth of the virgin birth arose from the practice of the Essenes, who had to remain betrothed for several years before a trial marriage, she argues. When the woman was three months pregnant, a second marriage took place. The woman had to be a virgin at the first marriage and after the second wedding, the husband would return to his life of celibacy. A woman who conceived during the long betrothal would remain a virgin legally but not physically.

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The Times exposes seminars that exploit self-doubt and hyperbole

Professionals fall prey to New Age gurus

By RAY CLANCY

MANAGEMENT training, self improvement and prosperity courses offered to professionals and companies in Britain by American consultants are using disturbing New Age methods that can do more harm than good, according to an investigation by *The Times*.

Senior managers have lost their jobs, experienced nervous breakdowns or been unable to continue with personal relationships after taking the courses. Seminars for single people are aimed at the professions including lawyers, teachers, accountants, managers and bankers. They use simple but effective mind persuasion techniques which can have a devastating psychological effect.

The term New Age covers a disparate collection of organisations, most of which have emerged since the 1960s and which offer some kind of answer to questions about religion, spirituality and philosophy. The thinking is adapted to suit a particular target, in this case the business world.

At least 15 important companies in Britain are using these management seminars. The firms employ consultants, many of whom are based in Canada and America, or have connections there, to conduct courses. One businesswoman who suffered a nervous breakdown after being sent by her boss on a four-day course described the seminar as a combination of "engineered stress and amateur psychiatry". She also lost her job and is suing her former employer and the consultancy that ran the course for personal injury.

The Home Office has given funds to the Information Network Focus on Religious Movements, which monitors New Age organisations, but there is no legislation and no guidance for companies on what could be regarded as dangerous or undesirable aspects. The Association for Management Education and Development, an umbrella organisation that has 2,000 members, is drawing up a code of practice to help to determine whether courses have hidden agendas.

The Times has examined one company connected with a Californian guru and how it



Mind games: EST founder Werner Erhard and, right, L. Ron Hubbard

changed its name and re-emerged as an educational and training organisation. A year ago Landmark Education International, based in Covent Garden, London, changed its name from Werner Erhard and Associates. It has not filed accounts in Britain.

Werner Erhard, a former used car salesman, founded his Erhard Seminar Training system (Est) in 1971. He drew upon many sources in the development of his philosophy including Zen Buddhism, Dale Carnegie's Positive Thinking, L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology and Jose Silva's Silva Mind Control. Erhard's seminars were at first 60-hour courses over two weeks designed to give insights into the meaning of life; his philoso-



phy has been described as "the most important of the self religions" that developed in the 1970s and 1980s.

The title "Est" is no longer formally used by Erhard and his followers and the courses have been adapted for the European market. The new approach appears friendly and participants no longer have to surrender their watches or be subjected to harsh conditions. However, the seminar room can be unbearably hot and participants are required to take breaks only at certain times and are not allowed to take notes or record any part of the proceedings.

Landmark Education avoids categorising its work. It does not advertise its courses but

relies on participants to spread the word. It has offices in Canada, Germany, Mexico, Scandinavia, Holland and Australia. It is reportedly considering expanding into the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The most popular course is The Forum, run over three days and an evening at £150 a head. It is described as a basic self improvement course and is held in central London hotels. At The Forum held last week at the Cumberland Hotel there were 200 participants contributing around £30,000 to Landmark Education which paid £10,000 for the rental of the Carlisle suite for three days. The price does not include accommodation or meals. Water is provided free but coffee, tea or orange juice is £1. Some had travelled from Scotland to take part.

It has been impossible to establish how much staff are paid. Many are volunteers. According to a paper written by Wendy Warren Young of Linacre College, Oxford, a "good number" of the leaders receive no salary and staff who run the area centres receive moderate salaries.

The Landmark Education course is similar to those in America which have caused concern. In 1987, the US Public Utilities Commission censured Pacific Bell for running a training course called *Knowing* and a year later the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission published a special series of guidelines on training courses.

John Drane, of Stirling University, who has studied the New Age movement and published a book, *What is the New Age saying to the Church*, says there are reasons for genuine concern: "There is nothing wrong with pushing yourself to the physical and psychological limits as a means of identifying personal strengths and weaknesses. In fact such techniques are the stock-in-trade for the training of military personnel all over the world. But there is a subtle difference between army training and the way business trainers often use such techniques. When you join the army you expect that sort of thing. When you report at your workplace for a management course, you do not."

Mind games lure victims into baring their souls



In the first instalment of a three-part series, Ray Clancy, left, investigates The Forum, a £150 self-improvement course that attracts ordinary people with typical family worries

AFTER nearly 14 hours of sitting in an uncomfortably hot conference room, a man in the next row stood up, took the microphone and poured out his problems to the other 200 people who had each paid £150 to experience The Forum, a self improvement course run by Landmark Education.

It was embarrassing, pathetic, and sad to see this man reduced to a mumbling wreck by the subtle mind tricks used on the course. He described how he had been trying for a decade to sort out his life, get married, settle down and start a family. He ran his own business, was worried about being financially secure and found he could not commit himself.

"If this course can help me sort out my little problem it will be worth its weight in gold," he said. I realised, with some horror, that here was an ordinary man with normal difficulties changing into a confused person and being persuaded that the answer to all his troubles was an advanced course costing £495. The day had started like any other conference. I arrived at the Cumberland Hotel in central London at 8.45am and went down the stairs to the Carlisle suite. I collected my name badge and went into the main room. The curtains were drawn. Chairs were laid out neatly in rows so close to each other that when you sat down it was almost impossible not to be touching the next person.

A coach, the term used to describe volunteers who help run the course, asked me to sit in the front row. I refused, choosing a seat instead near one of the portable air conditioners at the end of a row so that I could stretch out my legs if I wanted to.

Angelo arrived on the small stage set up at the front of the room. He introduced himself as "the leader" and strutted up and down like a peacock. He even squawked and screeched at times, his New Jersey accent penetrating and irritating.

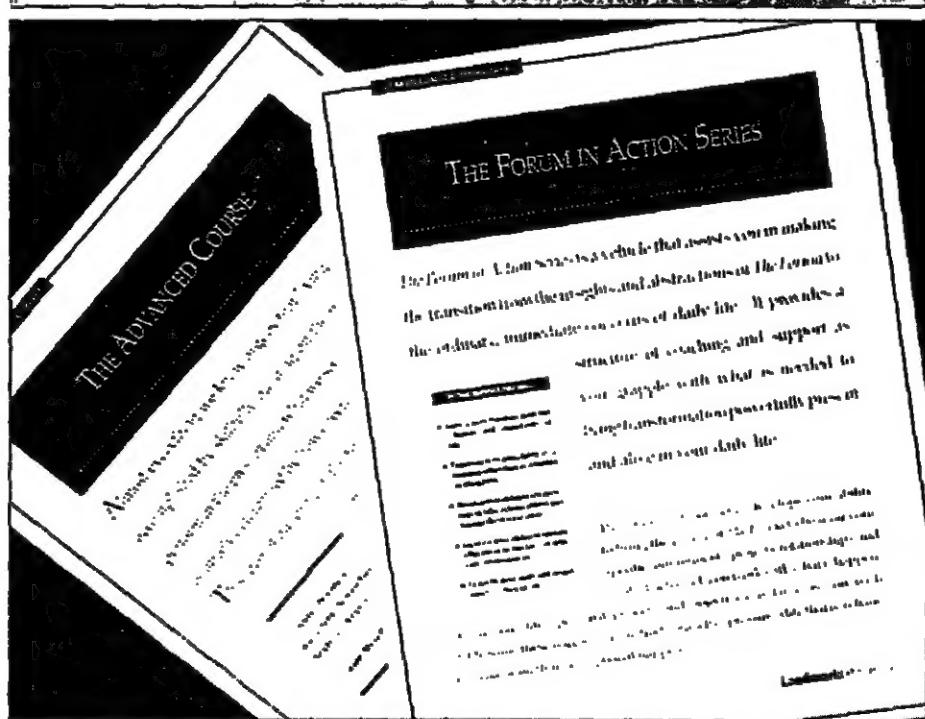
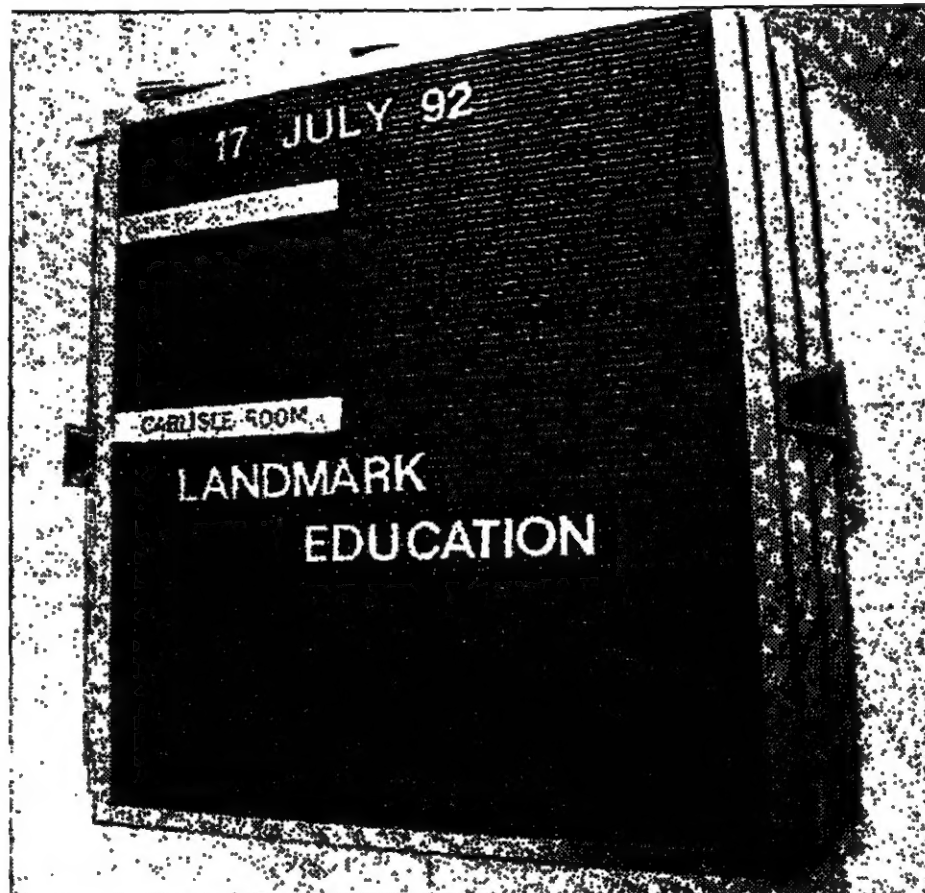
He asked anyone who had been put under pressure to attend to stand up. A dozen people did so. He then gave his definition of "pressured" and one by one they all sat down again, except for one man. He was asked how he

had been put under pressure and he said by his wife. Angelo asked him what happened. The man said she had been on the course, had got a lot out of it and told him he should go. "She indicated that if I did not, life at home would be decidedly cool," he said.

Angelo drew two circles on a blackboard. Above one he wrote "on the court" and on the other "in the stands". He said that the man's version of what happened was "a story" and therefore came under the "in the stands" heading. He again asked what happened and persuaded the man that his "story" was "an interpretation of the facts" and the facts were that his wife had asked him to go on the course, he had agreed and he had turned up; therefore there was no pressure. The man sat down.

Angelo talked, sometimes shouted, about how we were all living our lives "in the stands" and that was preventing us "empowering" ourselves so that we could take control of our lives. He seemed to want to destroy our beliefs and although he never said "this is right, that is wrong", he suggested through the clever choice of words that everything we had done since being born was somehow incorrect and our past was destroying our future.

I soon realised that there were course converts in the room. Half an hour into the course a man sitting close to



Exploitation: a course sign points the way, above, and Landmark literature

during The Forum. We could leave the room only during the breaks, every three hours. He advised us not to eat except at the meal break at 6pm. We were encouraged to tell our families and friends and even invite them along to a special evening session so that they could sign up. We were free to leave at any

times for later exploitation. The first tears came after the midday break. A course convert stood up and described how she had experienced "a breakthrough" during the morning session. When she was a child she had regarded her mother as an interfering busybody but now she realised that it had been "a story" rather than "the facts" and her mother had been concerned, not meddling.

The woman next to her raised her hand. In a broken voice she said she too had experienced a breakthrough. She wiped tears from her face as she talked about her "story", about her relationships with her mother, husband and stepchildren.

Hands were raised all over the place. One young man described his breakthrough. He had not been taken out for a big celebration when he achieved good A-level results. Now he realised that he had invented "a story" that his father was uncaring. "Have you had your £150 worth," shouted Angelo. "Yes, oh yes," was the joyful reply. A businesswoman took the

microphone with tears rolling down her cheeks. She looked at her 15-year-old son sitting two seats away and described how she had made her ex-husband out to be a horrible person when in fact he was quite decent. She said she had persuaded her son to attend the course but she felt they had both had their money's worth. "You've had £1,000 worth haven't you," said Angelo.

As more and more people talked about their breakthrough I struggled to work out the purpose of The Forum. When one man stood up and said he had experienced his breakthrough two weeks before coming on the course I started to understand. After having several conversations with a friend who had persuaded him to sign up for The Forum he had visited his mother and been able to talk to her in a new way. "I had my breakthrough then, I had my money's worth before I even came here today," he said, yet he had come for more.

When he sat down it was break time. As we left the main room people, mostly

"reviewers", people who had done The Forum before, went up to those who had stood to speak. They patted them on the back and said: "Well done, I used to think like that."

Everything was very friendly. There was lots of laughing. Angelo cracked jokes, he even apologised for using vulgar language. However, throughout the 14 hours anyone who suggested that they were happy with their life was questioned further about what it meant to be happy. Happiness was the carrot being dangled. By convincing people that they can be happy all the time, The Forum skilfully plants seeds in the mind so that they are searching for the secret to happiness, the answer for all their worries.

Angelo, who said he had no medical training but refused to reveal anything else about himself, would not give any answers. He suggested that we should be asking questions and not looking for answers. When asked when he would provide answers, he indicated that they would come in the advanced course. The whole day was orientated towards persuading people to sign up for more courses and to take their family and friends along too.

A sales rep who said he had done the course before described how he recruited a girl. He telephoned a friend in Glasgow but dialled the wrong number. "Instead of saying, 'sorry I have got the wrong number', I chatted to the girl and she is here today," he told the group. He was applauded for "sharing" his experience. I felt more and more angry as I sat and watched people agreeing with everything that Angelo said.

Everyone who stood up received a loud round of applause when they sat down, one of the tactics aimed at making you think you have done a wonderful thing by standing up and speaking, that you are among friends and are not alone with your worries.

By the evening session it had become unbearably hot. People had headaches, numb bottoms from sitting on uncomfortable chairs and were tired from concentrating. I had not expected to be affected by such conditions. I felt I was battle-hardened, used to sitting on hard seats in hot court rooms for hours on end as part of my job and often missing meals. But by 10pm my eyes were dry and my contact lenses uncomfortable. I even found myself wondering if what Angelo was saying might be true. I wondered if his points were valid, I wondered if I had "stories".

Fortunately I had one advantage over most people in the room - I had arrived a happy person without difficulties in my life at that time. I had experienced similar woes but always sorted them out for myself. I wanted to stand up and take the microphone and tell everyone that they could work it out, that they did not have to pay £150 to get confused or sign up for further courses.

At 11pm it ended. With a huge sigh of relief I handed in my badge and went home to my normal flat, my ordinary life and hugged my husband before falling asleep exhausted.

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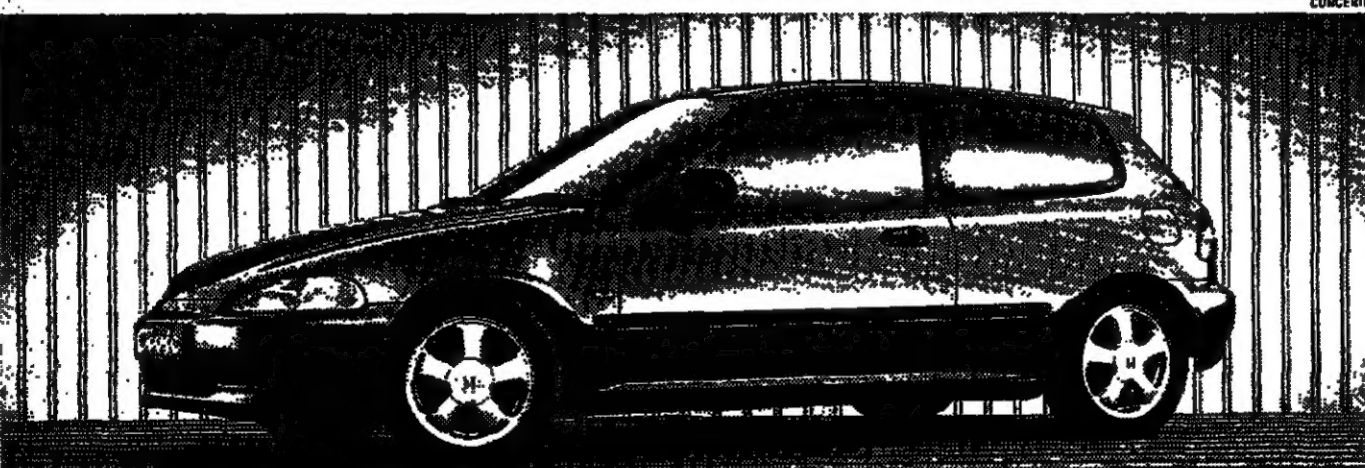
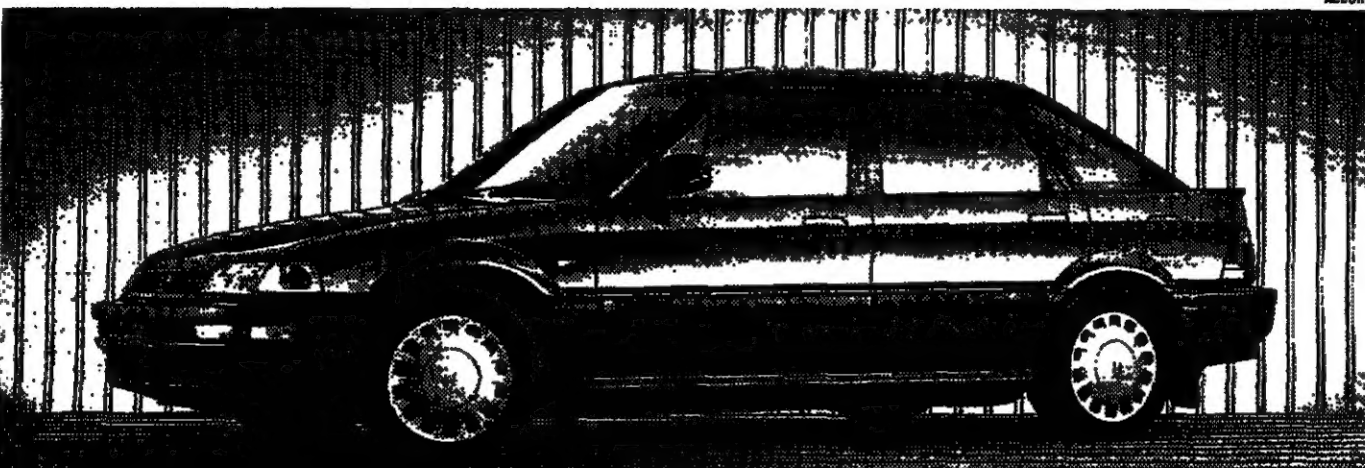
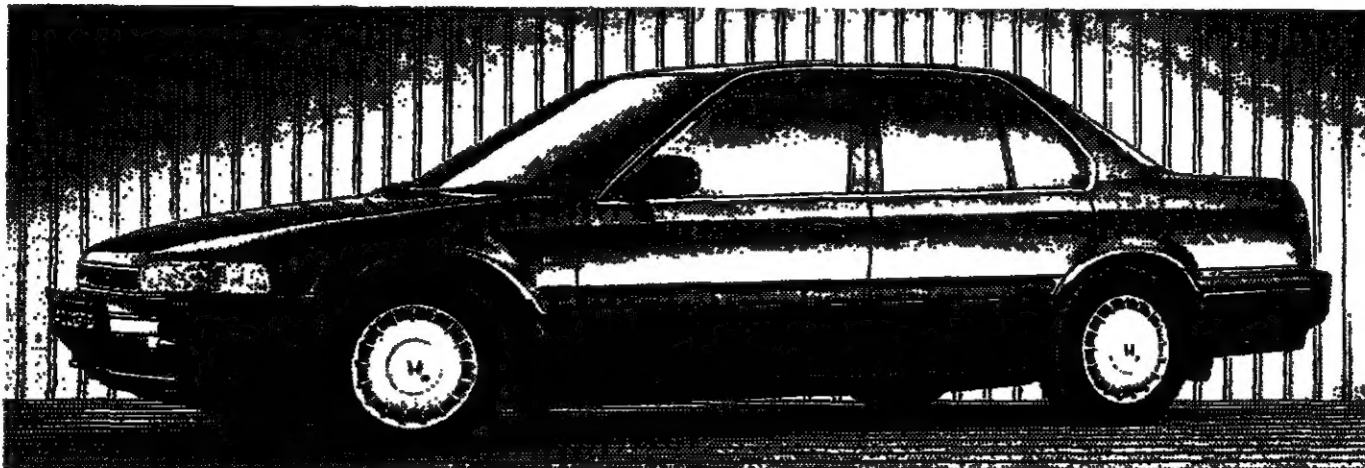
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MODEL	YEAR OF REG	MONTH EXPECTED REPLACEMENT	YEAR OF	AGE IF UNDER 18	

HIV infects 15 victims a second, experts told

FROM NIGEL HAWKES IN AMSTERDAM

THE Aids virus is infecting 15 new victims every second, says Michael Merson, director of the World Health Organisation's global programme on the condition.

The growth of Aids would "change the face of tomorrow", he said, as families weakened and broke up, whole villages disintegrated, and economies faltered.

Dr Merson painted a grim picture of large parts of the world stumbling towards catastrophe as the epidemic grew. Already, one million children and 10 million to 12 million adults worldwide had been infected with HIV, the virus responsible for Aids. Of the total, two million had gone on to develop Aids, and most had died.

In most places, he told the eighth international Conference of Aids, the disease had moved out of the original high-risk groups. Since the beginning of this year, nearly half of the one million new cases had been women. "This will mean even more children born with HIV infection, as

well as millions of youngsters escaping infection themselves but becoming aids orphans on their mother's death," he said.

Up to 80 per cent of adult hospital beds in some African cities were occupied by Aids patients today. If those patients' needs were met, it would absorb half the natural expenditure on health in some countries. Even dealing with tuberculosis and candidiasis, the two commonest opportunistic infections, would absorb 40 per cent of the entire national aids programme in high prevalence developing countries.

Because of the lack of a cure, prevention had to be the first priority, he said. "Preventing a single HIV infection is one of the best investments around. If we fail, the direct cost of caring for that person's illness a decade from now will be at least five to ten times greater."

Other speakers gave warning that Asia, hitherto less badly affected by Aids than Africa, could be heading the same way. The hidden incidence of the disease in India and the emergence of a potent new form of the virus in Thailand were worrying signs. Of the one million new infections this year, half are in sub-Saharan Africa, a quarter in Asia and the Pacific, and a tenth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Anke Ehrhardt, of Columbia University, in New York, said that in the United States, the safe sex message had been obstructed by religious and moralising groups, which had said that Aids was the consequence of sinful behaviour. They had sought to promote abstinence, though there was no evidence that young people who had started to become sexually active would stop if they are told to.

Programmes on re-virginisation did not work, she said. Nor would the traditional "safe sex" message if it were addressed to women. Condom use was not a method women could control. Most women did not have more than one sexual partner at a time, and were usually infected by their only partner.

What was urgently needed was a chemical barrier method, a viricide, in the form of a cream or jelly which could depend on women control without dependency on men's co-operation, she said.

Gerald Myers, of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, said HIV was a "moving target", constantly varying at a rate that made it difficult for medicine to catch up.

Letters, page 13



Rock of ages: Cliff Richard, left, unveiling a second wax model of himself at the Rock Circus, Piccadilly, central London. The latest waxwork likeness, aged 51 with crows' feet and wrinkles and dressed in a black bomber jacket, contrasts with the 1958 model of a teen idol in a shocking pink jacket and a quiff. "If I can keep going for another 25 years, they may do another model of me," he said

Schools to tackle truancy and crime

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INITIATIVES to combat truancy and teenage crime were among a £320 million package of projects announced yesterday by education ministers.

Education authorities that propose the most imaginative schemes to keep pupils in school will be offered a share of a £10 million fund. They will have to find 40 per cent of the cost of projects. The initiative may hasten the spread of clocking-in for lessons. A computer card system, which is already operating in some schools, allows teachers to keep track of pupils throughout the day, checking the afternoon attendance dip.

John Patten, the education secretary, has made truancy a main priority. Further measures are expected in an education white paper next week.

Teenage crime is also at the top of the government's agenda after violent incidents on city housing estates. A youth action scheme will offer a range of activities to keep young people off the streets. The £3.2 million scheme will be directed at the 13-17 age group. Mr Patten said: "The scheme will channel young people's energies away from destructive and anti-community activities. It will need the co-operation of schools, police, youth service, probation and social services."

Ministers see the two initiatives

as linked because regular truancy is often the first step into crime. Research shows that 48 per cent of all offenders have played truant and that more than half of fifth-formers at inner city schools skip lessons.

Eric Forth, the schools minister, said: "Pupils who fail to attend school regularly are deprived of one of the greatest opportunities in life: a proper education."

Among the other areas to benefit will be provision for special educational needs, which will receive £15.5 million in grants. Most of the money will go to train teachers in mainstream schools to cater for pupils with special needs, but £2 million will be concentrated on the teaching of deaf and blind children.

The initiatives are part of the Grants for Educational Support and Training programme for 1993-4 on which spending is being cut from the £377 million planned for 1992-3. But the education department said accurate comparisons were impossible because fewer schools, sixth-form and further education colleges would be under local education authority control.

The National Union of Teachers said the announcement was "window-dressing". "This is less money while schools take on ever more responsibilities,"

Districts lose court case with county

BY DOUGLAS BROOM LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

DISTRICT councils fearing extinction under government rationalisation plans yesterday lost an attempt in the High Court to prove that their county authority had taken them away from them to try to appear indispensable in the run-up to a review of local government.

Mr Justice Popplewell was asked to rule on the legality of a decision by Conservative-controlled Kent County Council to end arrangements under which the county's 14 district councils maintain highways on behalf of the county on an agency basis.

The judge ruled that the Kent districts had failed to show that the county council's decision was unreasonable and threw out their case. The districts claimed that the county's decision was prompted by a desire to prove itself indispensable before the government, considering abolishing one of the two tiers of local government, reviews the county in about three years' time.

District council leaders have been watching the Kent case closely because they fear that if the county succeeds with the move, other counties might be tempted to follow suit.

Collector wins fight over fake pottery

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN collector who paid £435,000 for eighteenth century Staffordshire pottery that turned out to be modern copies has won the first round in a legal battle to recoup costs of more than £600,000 from a London dealer.

After a two-hour hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice on July 7, Master Hodgson ruled that Henry Weldon's application for a refund plus 15 per cent interest on his original outlay should be granted. Lindsay Antiques, the dealer who sold the items, is appealing. The firm has resigned from the British Antique Dealers' Association.

Anne Pike, of Stephenson Harwood, Mr Weldon's London solicitor, said: "We said Mr Weldon had bought the items having relied on Lindsay Antiques' expertise." She added that the rules of BADA membership require members to refund when antiques prove to be fake.

Lawyers for Lindsay Antiques argued that Mr Weldon was an experienced collector.

A New York-based collector in his eighties, Mr Weldon had been acquiring Staffordshire pottery for some years when he bought the first alleged copy from Lindsay Antiques, of Kensington Church Street, west London, in June

1987. By December 1988, he had bought 13 suspect items from the firm, including a 6in high owl-shaped jug at £50,000. Other pieces included a chocolate pot for £14,500, and a candelabrum at £67,500.

Most of the items were offered as Whieldonware named after a legendary Staffordshire maker. Historians have recently proved that Whieldon owned the relevant factory at Fenton Low in Staffordshire, but did not make the pots in question.

Mr Weldon's collection was considered to be so fine that last winter, Sotheby's published a £100 book on the subject, *Stoneware and Earthenware 1650 to 1800, the Weldon Collection*.

But last autumn New Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad asked Mr Weldon for permission to test the pieces at the research laboratory for art and archaeology at Oxford University. The tests, from samples drilled from the pottery's bases, proved that they were modern copies.

Mr Weldon's London solicitors served their writ in January this year, claiming the original sum of £435,000 paid, plus interest amounting to £203,613 at the rate of 15 per cent from December 1988. Yesterday, Lindsay Antiques declined to comment.

Scientists launch green audit of Dales

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SCIENTISTS from the National Trust are carrying out an ecological "audit" of more than 5,000 acres of environmentally sensitive countryside in the Yorkshire Dales to work out its future.

The land in Upper Wharfedale ranges from high moorland and semi-natural woods on the daleside to ancient hay meadows along the banks of the river Wharfe. It is part of an area of the Dales that the agriculture ministry says needs special attention and care to preserve its traditional identity.

Besides its distinctive landscape features of heather, grassland and drystone walls and barns, it contains six protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Four are meadowland sites, one is the river itself between Buckden and Kettlewell and the other is a cave system in the daleside at Strains Gill.

Already the remnants of the eight farms on the site receive a grant of £140 per hectare to maintain their meadows, stone walls and hay barns. Traditional pasture flora is preserved by limiting fertiliser use and delaying cutting to allow plants to seed.

Alister Clunas, the National Trust warden responsible for the area, said that although the area was donated in 1989 it is the first opportunity the experts from the trust's biological survey unit at Cirencester have had to examine it. The land was formerly owned by two Bradford mill owners, David and Graham Wasson.

Yesterday, two botanists and two entomologists began a week-long detailed examination of the area. "Their findings will be used to develop a management plan on how the area should be looked after to best conserve its wildlife and traditional features," Mr Clunas said.

Sick girl awarded £150,000

A nine-year-old girl born without a thyroid gland was awarded £150,000 damages against the Wessex Regional Health Authority yesterday.

Julia Hallman, of Colden Common, near Winchester, Hampshire, will have to take drugs for the rest of her life because the abnormality was not detected early enough by staff at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, the High Court at Winchester was told.

Her present and long-term physical and intellectual development had been affected. The health authority admitted liability.

Monk attacked

A Hungarian monk on a visit to St Edward's Franciscan Friary in Nottingham was attacked by two men after asking for directions. Brother Otto, 24, had facial cuts and a bloodied nose.

Teenagers held

Maria Patricia Rossi and Christina Marie Molloy, both 17, were remanded in custody by Aberdeen magistrates' court yesterday, accused of murdering Edna Phillips, 70, who was stabbed to death at her home at Penryn, Mid Glamorgan, on Friday.

Saucy tribute

The face of Peter Greene of Nantwich, Cheshire, who gave up his job to nurse his daughter Jenny, 13, who has a rare kidney condition, is to appear on bottles of Daddies Sauce and Daddies Tomato Ketchup. H P Foods named him Daddy of the Year.

Death remand

Gaelan Henri Jules Biesty, a Frenchman aged 55, was remanded in custody by Dorset magistrates yesterday. He is charged with the murder of Caroline Taylor, 54, and the attempted murder of her teenage son Mark, of South Hantswood, Surrey.

Water saved

Anglian Water said it reduced by six million gallons a day, or 3 per cent, the amount of water lost from old mains. The company has begun replacing its iron water mains with polythene pipe.

New schools

Two new Roman Catholic grammar schools are to open in Belfast and Londonderry, providing up to 1,500 extra places from September.

For sale: the different worlds of Peter Pan's creators

THE homes of two Edwardian children's writers, J M Barrie and Arthur Rackham, who illustrated *Peter Pan*, are for sale for £750,000. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner described it as a "perfect timber-framed Sussex house of the fifteenth century".

Rackham's former home is an artist's studio in Hampstead, northwest London, now largely rebuilt in modernist style, and on sale for £1.35 million.

Barrie moved to Stonehill near Chiddingfold in 1921, a year before he was made a member of the Order of Merit. The March 1937 issue of *The Sussex County* magazine reported that when Barrie had visited the house, he had said simply that: "My name is Barrie and I write a little," to disguise from the owners his fame and wealth.

Born in 1860 the son of a weaver, Barrie was created a baronet in 1913 and was an extremely successful playwright. His successes included *The Admirable Crichton* and *What Every Woman Knows*, as well as *Peter Pan*, the play for which he is now best remembered.

Rachel Kelly finds a dramatic contrast between the Sussex country home of J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan*, and the modernised Hampstead studio of Arthur Rackham, the book's illustrator, which have both come on the property market

Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, started life in *The Little White Bird*, published in 1902, which Barrie had written while living in Gloucester Road, South Kensington, west London. The play was first produced in 1904, having been written while Barrie was living at 100 Bayswater Road. The playwright's output from Stonehill included such less remembered pieces as *The Truth about the Russian Dancers* and *Mary Rose*.

Rackham's house in Wychcombe Studios is reached by a narrow lane in the backwaters of Hampstead. The house was home to Rackham, master of drawings of the gnarled root and dancing fairies, between 1880 and 1903.

Rackham was pre-eminent in making imaginative drawings of gnomes, elves and hobgoblins, and sprang to fame in 1905 with his exhibition of 50 drawings for a deluxe edition of *Rip van Winkle*.

The house was hit by an incendiary device in the second world war, and largely rebuilt, but the garden view from the back of the house

is still the one Rackham enjoyed.

The house was remodelled by its present owner, the architect Douglas Paskin, with a 33ft master bedroom and galleryed triple height entrance hall.

The pop singer Keith Emerson of the rock group Emerson Lake and Palmer has owned Stonehill for 20 years. It is on sale through the agents Pereds. Wychcombe Studios is being sold by Knight Frank & Rutley.

A group of architects has written to David Mellor, the heritage minister, asking him to intervene to save Pitchford Hall, Shropshire, and its contents for the nation (John Young writes).

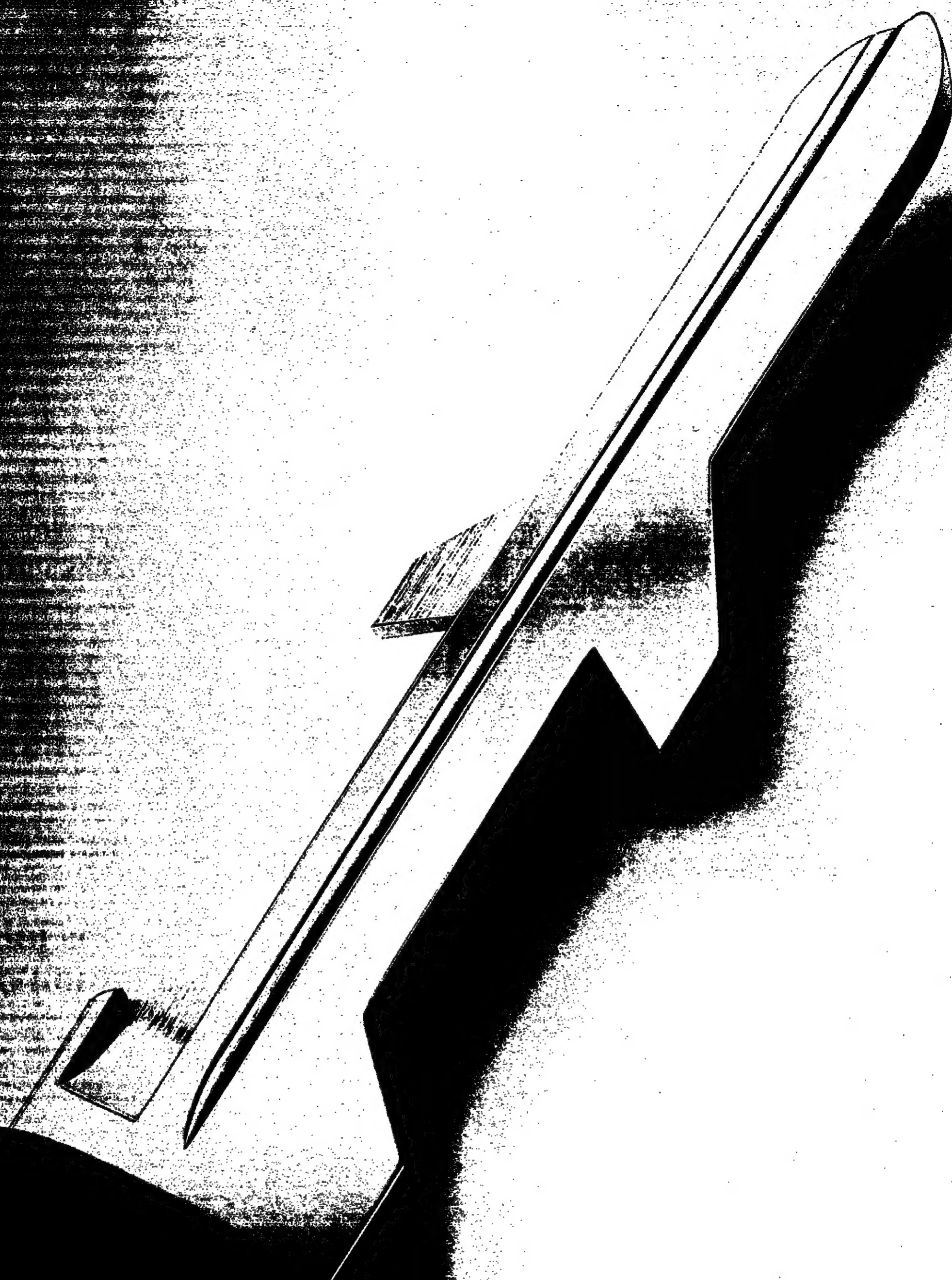
The exquisite half-timbered house, in an idyllic setting near Shrewsbury, has been in family ownership for more than 400 years. But, as a result of losses at Lloyd's, its present owners, Oliver and Caroline Colthurst, have been forced to put up the contents for sale by Christie's in September. Conservation bodies are also concerned but the National Heritage Memorial Fund is said to be unable to help at present.



Ancient and modern: the fifteenth century Sussex house of J M Barrie, below left, and, below, the Hampstead studio of Arthur Rackham, bottom left



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8 POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 21, 1992

Waldegrave draws guidelines for a leaner civil service

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A LEANER civil service which will compete against, and defeat, private competition is at the heart of public sector reforms, the government said yesterday.

William Waldegrave, the public service minister, said that the purpose of the "genuine revolution in Whitehall" was to strengthen the public services, rather than allow them to fall victim to mass privatisation. The civil service had been injected with a new entrepreneurial spirit, he said. "We understand now, with a decade of experience under our belts, that it is not simply ownership that matters. As fundamental as the division between 'public' and 'private' is the distinction between 'competition' and 'monopoly'."

The revolution of the public sector was aimed at dismantling the current system, rather than changing the staff, who he said were good enough to beat off private competition.

Mr Waldegrave's speech to

the Institute of Directors in London represented a clear move by the prime minister and cabinet colleagues to outline a wider framework for the future of the public sector. While not ruling out privatisation, Mr Waldegrave sent clear encouragement to civil servants that they could compete with, and beat, those tendering from outside.

Although there is no suggestion of regret about earlier years of rapid public sector privatisation, the government is anxious to emphasise that future reforms will be based also on alternative policies.

The citizen's charter, said Mr Waldegrave, was part of the revolution in which public services became more accountable to the user as well as government. It would fit alongside moves not only towards privatisation, but towards improved management and contracting out.

The policy of "market testing", in which all public services would face rigorous competition from private

business, would also influence the running of services. Although Mr Waldegrave said that the public sector, provided with a head-start by its experience, would often win, he added: "Experience is no substitute for efficiency, economy or effectiveness."

The cost of providing public services, at £3,800 per head of population, needed to be monitored in terms of output and value for money, rather than, as in the past, being examined purely on the cash input. "Never forget that poor services do not come free or cheap either. On the contrary, experience shows that poor service often costs more, because it means paying twice to put right mistakes."

Mr Waldegrave highlighted the example that private business had set in improving efficiency, productivity and technology while the public sector lagged behind. "Public services have not always had to face the same commercial disciplines. Their customers could not go elsewhere. Their businesses could not go broke. Their employees could engage in damaging and selfish strikes without the fear that their jobs would be destroyed."

Having made public service more efficient, he now wanted to press further forward with "the principle that the government's job is to govern, not to administer, to steer, not to row."

Mr Waldegrave's speech expanded on the aims which he outlined last month to a conference of business and financial leaders. His announcement then that senior civil servants would face competition for their jobs from leading industrialists drew criticism from the First Division of Civil Servants, representing top civil servants. The association claimed that the private sector could not provide the same quality service for the same cost. Government sources acknowledge that yesterday's address raised a secondary purpose of raising civil service morale which is thought to have been damaged by last month's address.

Farmers paid to preserve hedges

BY MICHAEL HORNESBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A rescue plan for England's wildlife-rich hedgerows was launched yesterday by the environment department. Over the next three years £3.6 million will be offered to farmers and landowners to encourage them to maintain and restore the glories of a countryside laid bare by intensive agriculture.

David Maclean, the countryside minister, said: "Hedgerows are an intrinsic part of the countryside, marking historic boundaries and providing important wildlife habitats."

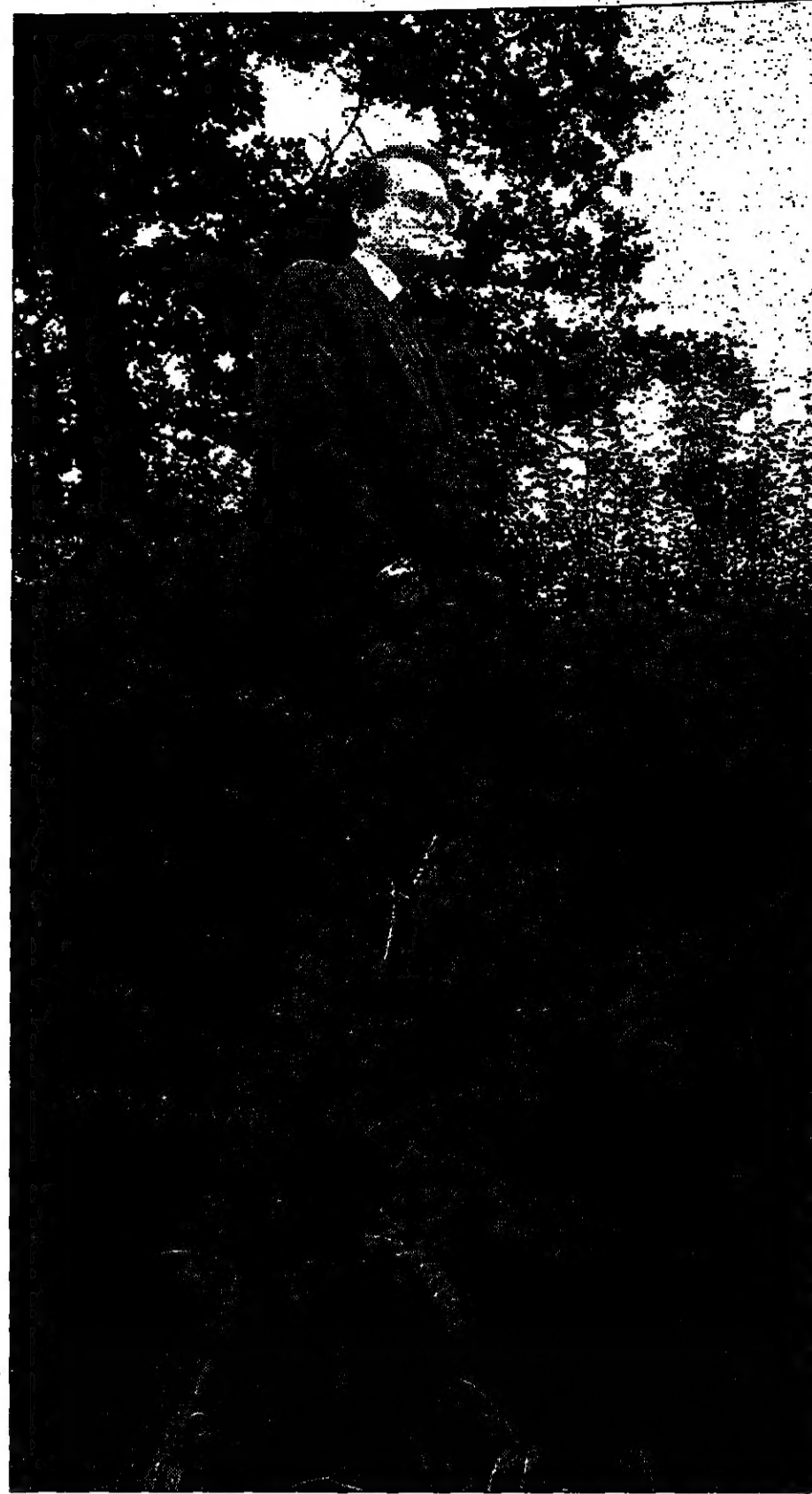
Conservationists welcomed the incentives but called for them to be reinforced by legal protection. Andy Wilson, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "The carrot is there to encourage caring landowners. Now we need the stick to stop the rogues who still unthinkingly tear up valuable hedges."

The council is supporting a private member's bill by Peter Ainsworth, Tory MP for Surrey East, that would empower local authorities to prosecute farmers for unauthorised removal of hedgerows. The government promised such legislation in September 1990, but has so far found no time for it.

Under the incentive scheme, farmers will be eligible for a variety of grants, ranging from 50p to £1.75 a metre, for coppicing, laying and gapping-up hedges as well as for the removal of old fence posts and wire and for the creation of temporary fencing to protect hedges under repair.

"Gapping-up" involves replanting to fill spaces in neglected hedges, while laying is the traditional skill of slicing part-way through the main stems, bending the tops back and knitting them together to maintain a thick and bushy structure.

Farmers will qualify for grants of up to £25 a metre for restoring earth and stone-faced hedge banks, while payments of between £17.50 and £40 a tree will be available for pollarding and other more drastic kinds of



Far-sighted: David Maclean launching the hedgerow rescue scheme yesterday

surgery where hedgerows have become overgrown.

A report last October by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology said England suffered a net loss of 53,000 miles, or one-fifth, of its hedgerows, between 1984

and 1990. Neglect and mismanagement were a far bigger cause of loss than actual removal.

The scheme was launched on the 175-acre Holywell Farm, at Nash, near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

The owner, Chris Phillips, said he intended to apply for the new grants to meet the cost of maintaining hedges on 40 acres he bought 11 years ago.

Leading article, page 13

Regional structure would add 2p to tax

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of European style regional government in Britain would add 2p in the £1 to income tax, John Redwood, the local government minister said yesterday. Promising to resist pressure from the European Commission for the creation of "a Europe of the regions", Mr Redwood said there was no justification for the "imposition of an additional layer of government burdens upon people."

Under the Maastricht treaty the Commission is due to create a committee of European regions with powers to scrutinise European legislation. Britain has no regional government structure and the clause in the treaty has prompted calls for its creation to enable Britain to play a full part in the new Europe.

Mr Redwood said the British government would use its presidency of the European Council of Ministers to oppose the invention of new layers of government and to give existing local government structures "room to breathe". He estimated that 11 regions would be needed to cover England alone at a cost of at least £200 million for staff and offices. If they followed the trend set by local government spending in the past their budgets could be expected to exceed £4 billion, or the equivalent of at least 2p on income tax.

"The creation of extra bureaucracies and new tiers of government represents the past not the future. The idea of government as omniscient lawmaker and omnipotent provider, offering a cornucopia of policies. 'If you take that strategy to its logical conclusion you end up with communism, everything planned centrally and nothing working properly.'"

The British presidency of the EC would bring four principles to bear on government in the community, he said. "Don't try to herd people into regions, don't invent new layers of government, give necessary layers of government enough room to breathe, and concentrate on governing well in those areas where government is needed," he said.

Class of '92 admits to modest ambitions

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE absence of a new register of MPs' interests, an alternative guide to what makes the class of '92 tick was published yesterday, disclosing some rather bizarre aspirations.

According to a survey by *The House* magazine, the parliamentary weekly, the ambitions of the new intake are surprisingly modest. None declare their hand as a potential prime minister and only a smattering admit to having an eye on a seat around the cabinet table.

The ambition, for instance, of Richard O'Gara, Conservative MP for Croydon South, is "not to make a cock-up". Harold Eilerson, Tory MP for Blackpool North, yearns for "a well-attended funeral".

Rod Richards, Conserva-

tive MP for Clwyd North West, names the chief whip, Richard Ryder, as his political hero and "tea in the whips' office" as his greatest ambition. Gyles Brandreth, the Tory MP for the City of Chester, goes a step further in attempting to ingratiate himself by listing his present crop of heroes as Mr Ryder, his deputy David Heathcoat-Amory, and another whip, David Davis. Nigel Evans, Tory victor of Ribbles Valley, lists "... whoever is going to be PM in the year 1998".

The odd sign of radicalism crops up among the new Labour intake with Greg Pope, MP for Hyndburn, wanting to turn Eton into a miners' convalescent home, and Colin Pickthall, MP for West Lancashire, listing Lenin as his political hero.

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Smith's kitchen cabinet gathers

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith arrived in Westminster yesterday making it clear that Labour was "back in business" as he started the process of shaking the demoralised party out of its post-election blues.

His takeover of the offices in the Commons assigned to the leader of the official Opposition, and vacated last Thursday by Neil Kinnock, was not without mishap. His morning flight from Edinburgh was delayed as golfers and spectators returned home from the Open Championship at Muirfield.

His week of settling in, aided by the summer recess which has all but emptied Westminster, will be dominated by the results on Thursday of the ballot for shadow cabinet places and Mr Smith's allocation of portfolios on Friday.

His key task yesterday was to sanction the announcement of his Westminster team, headed by his close friend, fellow Scot and climbing partner, Murray Elder, 42. The new chief of staff, who has been general secretary of the Scottish Labour party for the past four years, has been charged with producing a leaner command centre by pulling together the three factions of the party HQ in Walworth Road, Labour's office at Westminster and the party's MPs.

David Ward, 36, who worked for Mr Smith and the shadow Treasury team for four years, becomes chief policy adviser. David Hill, the party's director of communications, takes on a wider role in bringing together the party HQ staff at Walworth Road and the Westminster team. His partner Hilary Coffman, becomes Mr Smith's personal press officer.

Margaret Beckett is slowly working into her new post as deputy leader and, for now, retains her team of close aide and husband, Leo Beckett, research assistant Sheila Watson and personal assistant, Jessica Drewery.

Unions join debate on abolition of block vote

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRADE unionists sat round the table with Labour MPs yesterday to start drawing up proposals for the abolition of the trade union block vote in key areas of party decision-making.

The first meeting of the review committee, which is looking at every level of links between the trade unions and the party, was given added impetus by John Smith's comments on Saturday about replacing the union block vote with a one member, one vote system.

Within minutes of being elected Labour leader, Mr Smith made it clear that proposals to abolish the union block vote in three key areas should be put to the 1993 party conference. This has now become the new frame of reference for a review which will examine voting procedures for electing leaders, selecting parliamentary candidates and changing policy, all of which have a heavy union bias.

The unions still have a 90 per cent block vote at conference and a 40 per cent block vote in the leadership vote. Their vote for the selection of parliamentary candidates can be up to 40 per cent.

In 1990 the party conference voted in principle to accept a change in the proportion of the block vote to 70 per cent for the unions and 30 per cent for the constituency parties. That would have to be ratified at the conference this September to come into effect in 1993.

Yesterday the committee discussed whether to support the 70 per cent change this year, to go for a lower figure or to throw the decision into the review's melting pot, with a view to setting up a specific timetable for replacing the block vote from 1993. Members were broadly in favour of a rule change this year but said the pros and cons would go to the National Executive Committee on Wednesday. Party sources insisted that there would be no question of breaking the link with unions.

One way of phasing in the change would be to strength-

en the position of affiliated members, giving them more rights to participate individually in the party's affairs and be involved in policy decisions.

Calls to change the electoral college came from all candidates for the party leadership in the months leading up to the elections. Many candidates complained of the need for 55 MP nominations to stand and the heavy weighting given to the trade unions.

The review committee was set up in May to coincide with the NEC's decision to support a one member one vote system for selecting parliamentary candidates. At the time it was thought that the committee, which will report in December, was a sop to the unions. In the event the unions fought back. The decision to support one member one vote for selecting parliamentary candidates was overturned at the next NEC meeting, after concern that it would not get union support at the party conference, and determining Mr Smith's first months as leader.

Whether John Smith will accept the review committee's recommendations, and if so the speed at which they are implemented, will be a crucial test of his commitment to modernising the party's links with the unions.

The new membership is John Evans MP, chairman of the NEC who is also chairing the committee, Gordon Gilling of the print union GMPU, Tom Sawyer, Nupe deputy general secretary, Diana Cook, from USDAW, the shop workers' union, Nigel Hays from the engineering and electronics union AEEA, Richard Baines from TSSA, the white collar union, Tom Budge from the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Margaret Fraser from the Transport and General Workers' Union. The other MP members are Robin Cook, Chris Short, John Prescott, Margaret Beckett and Bryan Gould. Glyn Ford, MSP, Lewis Milliken, an academic, Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, and Steve Gland, director of organisation are also members.

Voting strengths at the 1991 annual conference
No of votes % of total

Trade union voting strength	
Transport and General Workers' Union	1975 19.1
General Municipal Workers and Boiler-makers	1530 15.1
National Union of Public Employees	1330 13.4
Amalgamated Engineering Union	1230 12.3
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers	1230 12.3
Confederation of Science Finance	1230 12.3
Confederation of Health Service Employees	1230 12.3
Ceramic and Allied Trades Union	1230 12.3
Union of Communication Workers	1230 12.3
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians	1230 12.3
National Union of Railwaymen	1230 12.3
National Communications Union	1230 12.3
Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union	1230 12.3
Society of Graphical and Allied Trades	1230 12.3
National Union of Mineworkers	1230 12.3
Iron and Steel Trades Confederation	1230 12.3
Talkers and Garment Workers	1230 12.3
National Graphical Association	1230 12.3
Transport/General Workers' Association	1230 12.3
Ceramic and Allied Trades Union	1230 12.3
Foreign Workers	1230 12.3
Bakers' Union	1230 12.3
Shipworkers' Union	1230 12.3
Graphic and Engineering Trades Alliance	1230 12.3
Others	1230 12.3
Trade union total	1230 12.3
Constituency parties	1230 12.3
Socialist societies	1230 12.3
Total	1230 12.3

Source: The Labour Party

Palestinians won over to peace process by Baker

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday appeared to win the first diplomatic victory of his Middle East mission, when he convinced Palestinian leaders to take a more positive approach to negotiations with the new Israeli government.

After a three-hour session at the American consulate-general in Jerusalem, leading Palestinian figures from the occupied territories emerged from talks with the American envoy apparently far more upbeat and flexible in their approach to the new administration of Yitzhak Rabin. The change in tone was most marked in Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, who announced that the delegation to the peace talks was ready to begin negotiations with Israel on matters of substance as early as the beginning of next month.

She also promised that any steps taken by the Israelis to improve conditions for the 1.8 million Palestinians living under Israeli military occupa-

tion would be answered by reciprocal measures, in particular a reduction in violent actions by activists in the territories.

During the talks the Palestinians gave Mr Baker a memorandum setting out details of what they wanted in terms of transition to self-government for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a process Mr Rabin has vowed to begin within six to nine months. Mrs Ashrawi repeated that a precondition to serious talks involved a freeze in the building of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands.

But she appeared to withdraw a threat to pull out of the talks if Washington grants Israel \$10 billion (£5.1 billion) in loan guarantees. Instead, she hinted that the Palestinians would not object to the money being granted, on condition that American inspectors verified none of it was spent in the territories.

The compromise appears to remove the final obstacle to the US aid being approved, though an official announcement is not expected until Mr Rabin meets President Bush in Kennebunkport next month.

Mr Baker is hoping to win a second victory today when he meets Rafiq Eitan, the leader of the right-wing Tsomet party. Mr Eitan's request for the meeting was interpreted by Israeli pundits as a sign that he wants to join the government coalition after receiving American assurances about Israel's future security. Mr Rabin, whose 62-member coalition would be greatly strengthened by Tsomet, has kept the police ministry portfolio open for Mr Eitan.

However, Mr Baker's diplomatic advances were greeted with predictable hostility by extremists in the region. Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Likud minister, said yesterday that the government's temporary freeze and review of Jewish settlement construction would ultimately lead to a ban on new housing throughout the occupied territories.

The racist Kach movement attempted to open a new settlement at an ancient synagogue in the Palestinian town of Jericho in the Jordan valley, before they were forcibly evicted by Israeli soldiers. Four Kach members, one with an Uzi sub-machinegun, later tried to disrupt Mrs Ashrawi's press conference but were arrested by police.

Distrust hampers Rabin

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

WHEN Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's new prime minister, arrives in Cairo today, one goal will be to thaw the freeze between the Jewish state and Egypt since the Camp David peace accord was signed in March 1979.

"We recognise each other's existence," said one prominent Egyptian. "But we are neither friends nor partners."

With the idea of Camp David opposed both by Muslim extremists and Palestinian radicals, security remains a key element in the low profile given to the plans of normalisation. The El Al office in Cairo is so afraid of attacks that even the air sign advertising the Israeli airline's presence has been withdrawn since the Gulf war. Similarly, nothing marks out the Israeli academic centre except a few soldiers and plainclothes men lurking in the lobby three stories below.

The Star of David flies over the embassy, but for security reasons that is at the top of a high-rise building and the road is guarded. Israeli diplomats use unmarked cars.

The mistrust and misunderstanding that have marred the peace were increased by the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Israeli lecturers who before that had been invited to talk at Egyptian universities have never been invited back.

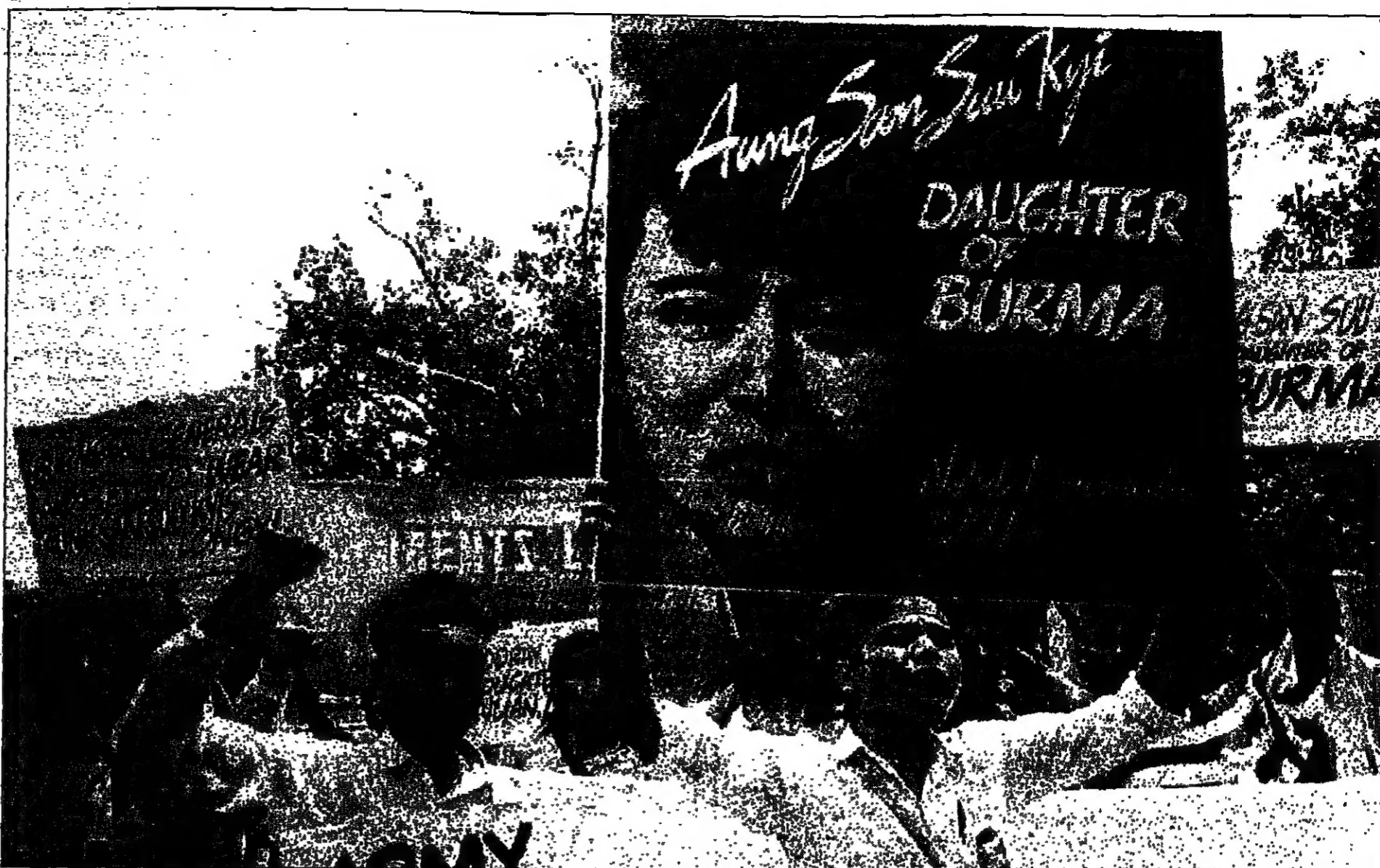
Recently, the Egyptian media have carried lurid stories accusing the Israelis among other things of spreading Aids, peddling drugs and sending in poison food. The allegations are widely believed, and Egyptians feel they have seen little material advantage from the treaty.

"There is a host of Israeli activities, either in Sinai or inside Egypt, which ultimately constitute a grave threat to the national security of our country and the morals of Egyptians," claimed the opposition paper *Al-Hakika* recently.

Apart from irrigation machinery, agricultural equipment and seeds, trade between the two has remained meagre, with some £3 million in Israeli goods crossing the border annually and another £6 million finding their way via Europe. Israel takes only one quarter of the two million tonnes of oil the treaty obliges Egypt to offer it each year. Egypt has made visas to Israel difficult, while the hardline policies of the former Likud government kept motivation to visit low.

"Shamir [Yitzhak Shamir, the former prime minister] was a dog, he treated the Palestinians like dirt and deep down hated all Arabs. From what I have seen, Rabin is different. We are hoping that things will change," said Muhammad Adli, a moderate Islamic Cairene.

Egyptian officials say that the Israelis must now dispel the notion that the treaty was primarily a vehicle for neutralising Egypt's armed might. "If some of the old spirit generated by Sadat's visit to Jerusalem could be revived, things could improve rapidly," said one Western military expert.



Liberty rally: Burmese students in Delhi marking the third anniversary of the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy leader and Nobel peace prize winner, with a march yesterday on their country's embassy. They urged all countries to downgrade ties with Rangoon and handed in a petition demanding Daw Suu Kyi's release

Thousands in Baghdad jeer at UN weapons inspectors

PRESSURE on United Nations personnel in Iraq increased yesterday when two UN guards were slightly wounded by a car bomb in the Kurdish north and UN inspectors were jeered at by thousands of angry demonstrators in Baghdad as they again failed to enter the agriculture ministry.

The tension grew as the Gulf war allies threatened renewed military action if a defiant President Saddam Hussein continues to insult the UN and defy security council resolutions. The car bomb planted in the Kurdish-held town of Sulaymaniyah was the third attack on UN personnel in Kurdish areas this month. Although Iraq has denied responsibility, its agents are widely believed to have been behind the violence.

A UN source said in Baghdad that the UN would maintain its presence despite the attacks and harassment. Iraq has recently stepped up resistance to the terms of the post-Gulf war peace deal by refusing to renew an agreement for the presence of 500 UN guards and 600 aid workers to help the Kurds in

A growing spate of attacks on UN personnel could bring about new military action against Iraq, Christopher Walker writes

northern Iraq. The Baghdad regime has also refused to co-operate with efforts to redraw its boundary with Kuwait.

The demonstration in Baghdad was the biggest since UN inspectors first tried to gain entry to the ministry to search for weapons-related documents on July 5. They remain convinced that military secrets relating to Iraq's chemical and biological weapons programme are inside.

At the weekend Rolf Ekus, a senior UN envoy, failed in his bid to persuade Iraqi officials to end the deadlock. He has returned for further consultations with the security council in New York. Western officials said that a compromise proposed by Tariq Aziz,

Iraq's deputy prime minister, to allow neutral experts into the building was unlikely to be acceptable.

Protesters yesterday burned American flags and effigies of President Bush and his main Gulf war Arab allies, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Many of the Iraqis chanted "Saddam is staying forever" as they marched past the ministry building.

"Tell the whole world that Iraqi workers have lost patience. They can no longer stand this humiliation," Fadhil Mahmood Khareeb, a trade union leader, told the handful of foreign reporters who had been selected for visas to report from the Iraqi capital.

In northern Iraq, a Fijian UN guard was shot dead as he slept last Thursday, and earlier two Austrian UN guards were seriously hurt when a grenade was thrown at the house where they were living. Prior to that, Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French president, escaped unhurt from a bomb attack on her motorcade. Four people were killed in that incident.

Christians call strike over Lebanon poll

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE Lebanese Forces, the Christian hardline faction, yesterday called for a general strike on Thursday. It is to protest against next month's parliamentary elections, the first in 19 years, before the Syrian forces are due to pull out of Beirut.

Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces commander, announced the strike at his militia headquarters in east Beirut. His call was backed by General Michel Aoun, his arch-rival and the exiled Christian army commander, as well as the Christian National Liberal party of the late president, Camille Chamoun.

Mr Geagea appealed to President Hrawi and Rashid Solh, the prime minister, to "use this historic opportunity to save Lebanon's second republic, which is on the brink of collapse." He said that the government was violating the terms of the Taif accord, the national reconciliation pact reached between Lebanon's warring factions in Saudi Arabia in 1989 to end the 15-year civil war. "Instead, the government is trying to im-

pose in peace times what proved to be impossible during the war — oppression and humiliation (of the Christian community)."

Mr Geagea, in an interview with the *al-Hayat* newspaper, said that he was protesting against the "illegal amendments" that the government had made to the constitution, contrary to the Taif pact. The amendments serve the electoral purposes of Walid Jumblatt, the pro-Syrian Druze leader, and Hussein Husseini, the Shia Speaker.

The Christian camp, led by Nassrallah Stair, fears that holding the poll while the Syrians still control the capital could lead to a falsifying of results to elect pro-Syrian candidates to the legislature for a six-year term.

As the election controversy continued, thousands of Lebanese soldiers, equipped with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, fanned across devastated villages of the Chouf mountains and the eastern hills in a measure aimed at securing the return of Christian refugees to the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia is shocked by sex tapes

Kuala Lumpur: Karpal Singh, leader of Malaysia's opposition Democratic Action party, shocked parliament yesterday by presenting a videotape that he claimed showed D. P. Vijandran, a former deputy parliamentary Speaker, having sex with several women. He said he had copies of ten other pornographic videotapes as well as showing Mr Vijandran in sex acts.

Parliament accepted the videotape but rejected Mr Singh's proposal that its members view the tape.

Mr Singh accused the government of a cover-up when he first raised the matter in 1990. "The police cannot be trusted and that is why I brought the tape to parliament," he said. "We cannot sit back."

Abu Talib Othman, the attorney-general, said in 1990 that he did not think any useful purpose would be achieved by prosecuting anyone. (Reuters)

Vance begins township talks



Johannesburg: Cyrus Vance, above, the United Nations special envoy, arrives in Johannesburg today to discuss proposals for international participation in monitoring violence in townships (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Yesterday 77 residents of the KwaMadala hostel in Botswana appeared in court, suspected of involvement in the mass killing of 40 people on June 17. Lawyers said they would seek bail at their next appearance on August 10.

HIV spreads

Amsterdam: The World Health Organisation released figures at the eighth international conference on Aids here showing one million people were infected with HIV in the first six months of this year. (Reuters)

Famine threat

Antananarivo: Nearly a million people in Madagascar will face famine by the end of the year because of drought, SOS-Sud, a relief agency said, adding that 300,000 faced hunger in May. (AP)

Polling halted

Lagos: Nigerian national assembly elections were abandoned in Bani Karna, Kaduna state, after chimpanzees attacked the electoral officer, state radio reported. (Reuters)

China's boom town reaches for the sky

BY DAVID WATTS

AS A sign of national morale, high-rise buildings have been a good indicator. China may not be shaking the world with its economic performance, but it is determined to make up for that with the tallest building in Asia — an 88-storey skyscraper in Shanghai.

So far the city's tallest is 50 storeys, putting Canary Wharf in London's Docklands into the minor league but scarcely coming close to North Korea's showpiece pyramid hotel with 105 storeys.

The New China News Agency reported yesterday that the unnamed building would have more than 2.44 million square feet of commercial, entertainment, office and residential space. It is expected to be completed in three years

at a cost of a billion yuan (£92 million). It will be constructed in Shanghai's new Pudong district, seen as China's next economic boom town. Like other development areas, the central government has granted Pudong an extra measure of autonomy to attract foreign investment.

China's tallest skyscraper is the 63-storey Citic Plaza Hotel in the southern city of Canton. The Central Plaza tower in Hong Kong is now Asia's tallest — 78 storeys, or 1,228 feet — with one of Singapore's Raffles Place hotels not far behind.

The Singaporeans would have tipped Hong Kong into first place, but they were afraid of jumbo jets flying into their skyscraper.

Chinese offer joint deal on islands

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

CHINA wants to shelve the issue of who has sovereignty over the Spratly Islands so that all the claimants jointly can exploit the resources of the South China Sea.

Qian Qichen, China's foreign minister, made this clear during bilateral talks here with Raul Manglapus, his Philippines counterpart. "The problem cannot be solved in one day or tomorrow," he said, "so we should shelve the dispute."

Mr Manglapus added: "China appears to favour joint exploitation of resources, postponing the issue of sovereignty and jurisdiction until we are able to find a way of resolving that."

Mr Qian said China's position was clear cut. "When conditions are ripe we can start negotiations; when conditions are not ripe, we can

shelve them." He also promised that China would not step in to fill the power vacuum created by the end of the Cold war and the closure of America's military bases in the Philippines. "China is not in favour of such an idea and it has no intention of doing so," he said.

Peking's statements were apparently aimed at allaying apprehensions before the 25th meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) beginning here today. The two-day meeting will be followed by a dialogue between Asean members — the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei — and the organisation's trading partners, the United States, the European Community, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Ko-

rea. China and Russia have been invited to attend as consulting partners in an enlarged format that for the first time also includes Vietnam and Laos.

Asean officials said it was significant that Mr Qian should allay fears of China stepping into the vacuum in the region, since Peking has flexed its muscles already by claiming sovereignty over the Spratlys.

The contested chain of islands in the South China Sea is presumed to be rich in oil and marine resources. China and Vietnam are the principal claimants. The others are Taiwan and three members of the association: the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

● Hanoi: Vietnam's ruling Communist party said yesterday that almost all voters had turned out in some areas for

Sunday's national assembly election, which it described as the country's most democratic poll to date.

Nhan Dan, the party newspaper, said that every Vietnamese soldier stationed in the Spratly Islands, more than 98 per cent of Hanoi-registered voters, and 96.25 per cent of those in Ho Chi Minh City had voted. The government had insisted that voting was not compulsory, but ordinary citizens disputed that claim.

Loudspeakers on Sunday were urging people to vote and officials at polling stations said that late-comers were likely to be visited at home by election workers. Many voters, especially young people, were cynical about the polls, in which nine out of ten of the candidates on offer were party members. (Reuters)

PEKING NOTEBOOK by Catherine Sampson

Deng's doctrine flowers in a profit-making beer garden

SINCE 1955 the shop known as Number 34 has tried to remain as anonymous as possible, its grey facade blending into a street of equally unremarkable buildings in the centre of Peking.

It never advertised its status as a special food shop for Communist VIPs, but few ordinary citizens of Peking would have attempted to pass through its portals. They would have been thrown out long before they got anywhere near the shelves of abalone, shark's fin and sea slugs, the delicacies which grace the banquet tables of China's leaders. Here, dried bird's nest is sold for soup at \$850 a

pound. What was one of the most secretive places in China is the latest convert to the radical reform programme of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader. Number 34 has opened a beer garden for the common man on the pavement outside. "This has only been possible after Deng went to the south," Qin Jie, the manager, said. Sipping Coca-Cola under a parasol advertising Peking Beer in the roadside cafe, he commented: "It's an experiment."

When Mr Deng went to southern China early this year, he said that the whole country should concentrate

on making money and stop worrying about whether what they were doing was capitalist or socialist. This spring a



confidential document circulated in the party urged state-run enterprises, about 70 per cent of which make losses, to start up sideline enterprises.

In Peking, state-run enterprises were told that the state would no longer interfere. That was enough for Mr Qin. "I think I'm doing this in accordance with Mr Deng's policies", he said, looking round at tables of satisfied customers. "Nobody has told me whether I can or not, and I'm not asking." His beer garden is the only state-run operation in a street of private entrepreneurs who set up their stalls every night to sell snacks. Night markets

have recently sprung up all over Peking as part of a municipal policy to brighten up the capital's previously gloomy evenings.

Because his is a state-run enterprise, Mr Qin enjoys preferential policies. He boasts that because of his status he is allowed to sell beer. None of the private entrepreneurs is given a permit to sell alcohol. "The government wants to brighten up Peking, but it wants state enterprises to do it, not private stallholders," he said, gesturing disdainfully at them. "Whoever shines brightest will make the most

money." He coexists quite happily with the stallholders.

Mr Qin has signed a contract to rent the stretch of pavement from Peking municipality at about 70p per square metre a month. Such is the demand for space from private stallholders, however, that the going rate is now £25 per square metre a month.

In defence of the distinctly closed-to-the-world nature of Number 34, Mr Qin points out that foreign leaders have also partaken of the privileged lifestyle his shop offers. John Major, the Queen, and President Bush have all, he said, enjoyed his food at banquets.

Belated Russian interest in Kuriles fails to lift islanders' morale

BETWEEN the southeastern point of Sakhalin and the northern tip of Japan lie three fog-bound volcanic islands and a group of rocky outcrops that have poisoned relations between Russia and Japan since the end of the second world war. Last week Russian and Japanese officials failed for the umpteenth time to make any progress on the territorial dispute which concerns what Russia calls the southern Kuriles and Japan the Northern Territories, with a population of 47,000.

Even as the deputy foreign ministers and their delegations were negotiating fruitlessly in Tokyo, there were signs that the nature of the dispute was changing. Russia, it seems, is scared that, unless it shows more practical concern for the islands, economic realities will take a solution to

Doubts about the future of the disputed Kurile islands are weakening the Russian inhabitants' allegiance to Moscow, reports Mary Dejevsky from Yuzhno Sakhalinsk

the quarrel out of its hands. Last week saw a delegation of senior officials from neighbouring Sakhalin and the mainland maritime region, including four deputy governors of Sakhalin and President Yeltsin's representative, dispatched on a fact-finding visit to the islands.

It was the first such visit anyone could remember and certainly the first time that any high-level interest had been shown in the islands since President Yeltsin's brief visit last autumn. The visit followed an urgent directive from Valentin Fyodorov, the gover-

nor of Sakhalin, which called for "immediate measures to stabilise the socio-economic situation in the Kurile islands". He instructed his deputies to draft a development programme for the period to 1995 and announced the formation of a special commission to ensure the livelihood of the Kurile islands.

The southern Kurile islands are among the worst supplied and maintained regions of the former Soviet empire. The islands have received none of the advantages and all the disadvantages of Russia's recent reforms and are entirely

dependent on staples brought from the mainland. Prices of food and consumer goods have rocketed without any improvement in supplies. The islands' main industry, fish processing, is operating at half capacity. The price of tin for the cans has risen beyond reach.

Fuel shortages and bad weather have regularly combined to cut the islands off from Sakhalin, their only point of communication with the Russian mainland, for weeks at a time. Two steamers used to ply between Sakhalin and Yuzhno Kurilsk, the main town on the southern island, Kunashir. Now there is only one, and it must link the three main islands, making what could have been an 18-hour journey each way into a three-and-a-half day "cruise". The airport at

Yuzhno Kurilsk has been shut since the end of last year. In theory, a temporary landing strip is being replaced with a permanent runway. In practice, the builders ran out of materials and no more were delivered for weeks. In the meantime, there are daily planes to a military airfield on Iturup, north of Kunashir, necessitating a further flight by helicopter to Yuzhno Kurilsk.

Kurile islanders and their supporters in Sakhalin are bitter, especially about the fuel shortages and the airport. "Of course, it shows a lack of political will. If Moscow had wanted it to be completed, it could have done it without delay," says Aleksandr Fokistov, chairman of "Russian Island", a Sakhalin-based group campaigning to keep the islands Russian. He



suspects that Moscow is deliberately trying to "starve" the islanders into moving to the mainland, as a preliminary to handing them back to Japan.

"It is a tragedy. People have lived there for decades and saved so they could eventually move back to the mainland, buy a house, a car... and now everything has vanished into thin air." He blamed the Russian government for not sending a clear message.

"People simply don't know whether to try to help the local economy or start packing their bags."

Governor Fyodorov, who has started a crusade to keep the islands Russian, also suspects the worst of the Russian government and claims that the Russian foreign ministry in particular is secretly lobbying to have the islands transferred. Even he admits, however, that the islanders' allegiance to Russia has weakened over the past year, partly because of the deterioration in local conditions, partly because of the humanitarian aid Japan has supplied to needy groups on the islands, and partly because a pilot scheme for visa-free travel between the southern Kuriles and Hokkaido has shown the Russian inhabitants just how poor both they and Russia are.

Igor Kots, a journalist on the Moscow-based *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, who visited the islands this year and a year ago, confirmed that morale had sunk catastrophically. On Shikotan he found only fatalism. "We'll go to anyone, even the devil, if only they give us something to eat," a local carpenter told him.

In an act which would formerly have been regarded as out-and-out treachery, a Russian group, called Zemlyak, has organised a petition to have the islands — and themselves — handed over to Japan, or returned to the Russian mainland with substantial compensation.

Governor Fyodorov believes that so long as Japan continues to link any large aid effort to the resolution of the territorial dispute in their favour, the Kuriles are safe with Russia.

Army strategy in Sicily

Military flies Mafia chiefs to mainland

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PALERMO

ARMY units were deployed in Palermo and 55 leading members of the Mafia were flown out of Sicily in military aircraft yesterday in a first response by the state to the assassination of Judge Paolo Borsellino.

An angry crowd gathered on the steps of the Palace of Justice in the Sicilian capital, where the body of the 54-year-old magistrate killed by a Mafia car bomb on Sunday was to be taken so that the people of Palermo could pay their last respects. Police protests over the deaths of five of their colleagues in the attack erupted in Rome and Milan as well as Palermo. The family of the murdered judge angrily refused to allow a state funeral to be held for him, implicitly blaming politicians in Rome for failing to provide sufficient protection.

The judge, died only 50 days after the killing of Judge Giovanni Falcone.

Troops armed with rifles and wearing full battle dress and helmets were deployed around Palermo's high sec-

urity Ucciardone jail at dawn and 55 prisoners, believed to be leading mafiosi, were transferred to prisons elsewhere in Italy.

Three hundred police and carabinieri were sent to Sicily as Nicola Mancino, the interior minister, prepared to address parliament on the latest defeat in the battle against organised crime. The government prepared to speed up parliamentary approval of a tough new anti-Mafia decree issued last month that gives police and magistrates wider powers, offering more protection for mafiosi who turn state's evidence and depriving mobsters of privileges such as home arrest while awaiting trial.

"Faced with two massacres within two months, with three well-executed crimes in five months, we have to realise that the Mafia has proclaimed a war against the state," Giovanni Peppi, the editor of the newspaper *Giornale di Sicilia*, said, a state "which is fragile and weak, even if not

immobile, weakened by acute contrasts, sustained by barely credible parties and delegitimised by scandals and bad government."

Opposition experts on the Mafia, such as Giuseppe Ayala, a Sicilian judge and Republican party deputy who identified the mutilated body of Borsellino, said the decree in itself would not be enough to win the battle against organised crime. "The only solution is political," Signor Ayala told state-run television. "You can't say that the parties in this government represent the aspirations of Italians as shown by the April 5 and 6 elections."

Vincenzo Scotti, the foreign minister, was to propose an international plan to combat the Mafia at a meeting yesterday of his European counterparts in Brussels.

The Pope sent messages of solidarity to President Scalfaro and to the families of the victims. He said prayers in his hospital room in Rome and described the attack as "a terrible insult to the Italian people."

The family of Signor Borsellino announced it would hold a private funeral for him in his parish church of Santa Maria di Marilac. President Scalfaro could attend but only in a personal capacity and no other state representatives would be invited.

Firemen were still clearing rubble from apartments damaged at the scene of the attack. The burnt-out wreckage of cars destroyed in the blast littered the street as policemen with sub-machineguns held back a crowd of onlookers, many of whom brought floral tributes. An autopsy was carried out on the judge and medical sources said both his legs and the right hand were severed in the explosion.

The Palermo city council declared three days of mourning. Among the dead was bodyguard Emanuele Loi, 25, from Sardinia. She was the first woman police officer to be killed on active service in Italy.

Overnight, demonstrators shouted insults, threw coins and even spat at Vincenzo Parisi, Italy's national police chief, after a late-night meeting of crime fighters in Palermo. Angry police officers jeered Signor Parisi and the interior defence and justice ministers when they arrived in Palermo to confer on a response to the latest Mafia outrage. Some of the officers tried to use their cars to ram the gates of the villa where the meeting was taking place.

Corruption case comes to court

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

THE trial for alleged corruption of Mario Chiesa and 25 other defendants opened in Milan yesterday and was immediately postponed until October 26. It was a low-key affair and most defendants did not bother to turn up. But it was a momentous occasion as the long-running investigation into local government corruption, that has sent shockwaves throughout the Italian political establishment, at last reached court.

The enquiry, spearheaded by the Milan public prosecutor, Antonio Di Pietro, had a modest beginning. Signor Chiesa was in the process of getting divorced but was not keen to shell out large quantities of alimony. His wife knew that he was not short of money and that much of it was of allegedly illicit origin, a suspicion that she was happy to pass on to the judicial authori-

ties who were handling her contentious divorce case.

Signor Chiesa was arrested on February 17 as he was allegedly caught accepting a \$3,500 bribe paid to secure a clearing contract for Milan's largest old people's home, of which he was director. Police raiding his office filmed him flushing what they said was a further £13,000 of similarly illicit origin down a lavatory.

When Signor Chiesa subsequently agreed to collaborate with the investigators, he lifted the lid on such widespread corruption that only parties which have never occupied positions of power have remained unscathed. The Socialist party, which governed Milan over the last 15 years, has been hardest hit of all.

Party leaders have attributed the corruption, including public contract kickbacks, to isolated individual greed.

Czech link broken as Havel exits

Steve Kettle in Prague reports on the mood of a country on the brink of break-up as the president steps down amid European tribute to his anti-communist role

PRESIDENT Havel stepped down last night, leaving Czechoslovakia without a head and adding momentum to the country's rush towards splitting into two independent states.

The departure of the playwright and former dissident, 55, provoked a mixture of bewilderment, regret, reproach and pained incomprehension in his by now familiarly polarised country. "The last link between the two (Czech and Slovak) republics has been broken," the right-wing daily, *Telegraf*, said. "It is Havel's last day at the (Prague) castle today. It looks like an absurd drama in which all the country is playing a role," the independent *Lidove Noviny* wrote.

Mr Havel went quietly and without fuss. There was no public ceremony but his final duties included receiving the new American ambassador and bidding farewell to other diplomats.

He announced his resignation last Friday, after the regional parliament in Bratis-

lava declared Slovak sovereignty, the first important step towards full independence. "The president's resignation damaged Slovakia's image in the world — an image that was anyway presented wrongly by Prague's media," the Slovak daily, *Narodna Obroda*, commented.

Mr Havel's future is unclear, but he has said he might stand for the post of Czech president which is likely to be created soon as the Czech republic and Slovakia rapidly set up separate institutions.

John Major praised the outgoing president, citing the "wisdom and integrity" of the man who presided over his country's transition from communism. Mr Major said he hoped Mr Havel would continue to play a role in the destiny of Czechoslovakia and Europe.

In Bonn, Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said he was saddened. "In a very special way he was a moral institution that was also a symbol of the new Czechoslovakia," (Reuters)

Coup leaders mock Yeltsin's heroism

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE sight of Gennadi Yanayev, the apparition with trembling hands who fronted last year's coup, defending himself in a televised interview from jail has again set Moscow wondering: will the push organisers ever come to trial, or will their case be quietly dropped?

The broadcasting of a relatively sympathetic interview with the disgraced Soviet vice-president follows *Pravda's* publication of a long open letter from former detainee Vladimir Kryuchkov, the KGB chairman who was one of the coup leaders.

Mr Yanayev, in whose office the eight-man "emergency committee" used to confer, upheld the widespread view that before the coup, President Gorbachev had voiced sympathy for the idea of a state of emergency and suggested preparing the necessary documents. He also insisted that there had never been any intention to storm the White House, the Russian parliament, where Boris Yeltsin made history with his resistance to the conspiracy.

There is a growing lobby in the Russian parliament for the detainees' early release, motivated either by genuine sym-

pathy for them or by a wish to rock the political boat and make problems for the president. Two minor members of the August conspiracy have already been discreetly released, but a decision to free notorious hardliners such as Mr Kryuchkov or Dmitri Yarov, the defence minister, would be harder to explain to reformist Yeltsin supporters.

President Yeltsin recently argued that the conspirators were to blame for breaking up the Soviet Union with their bungled coup, a backhanded admission that more and more people lament the break-up, and that he is vulnerable to the accusation of causing it: it was this statement that prompted Mr Kryuchkov's letter to *Pravda*, defending the rebellion as an effort to keep the union together and listing President Yeltsin's actions that destroyed it.

He also argued that there had never been any intention of storming the White House, and Mr Yeltsin had known this perfectly well. It would badly damage Mr Yeltsin's reputation if it were proved that his bold stand in the besieged White House was made in the certainty that the tanks would never come.

EC attacks British meanness

Brussels European Community foreign ministers yesterday attacked the British presidency's efforts to take Jacques Delors' spending plans back to the drawing board, leaving the government isolated in its parsimonious approach to EC spending (Tom Walker writes).

The Commission president said that if Britain had its way, spending on the Community's "poor four" of Portugal, Greece, the Irish Republic and Spain could only be increased by 16 per cent over the next five years.

The government wants the annual increases in donations kept at 1.2 per cent, but under Mr Delors' plans they would raise spending in the poor countries by 68 per cent.

Lesotho king returns from exile in London

King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho returned to his mountainous kingdom after more than two years' exile in London. He was mobbed on his arrival at Maseru on a chartered flight from South Africa by about 200 supporters who crowned him with a traditional woven Sotho hat and strewed his path to the terminal with colourful blankets.

General Elias Ramaema, head of the military government, which refuses to let the king return to the throne, ordered tight security. The king wept as he embraced his son Lesie, whom the government installed as his successor when it deposed him in 1990.

Murphy Brown, the television character played by actress Candice Bergen, is plotting revenge on American Vice-President Dan Quayle. The show's creator, Diane English said a new series would respond to Mr Quayle's charge that the character symbolised the degradation of American

family values by a Hollywood elite. The first episode will be called "Murphy's Revenge".

The appeal by Alan Bond, the former Australian tycoon, against a two and a half year jail sentence opened with a claim that false evidence was given at his trial for dishonesty. Builder Maxwell Healey told the Western Australia Appeal Court that Bond's business associate Laurie Connell told him he intended to give false evidence to secure Bond's conviction.

A Philippines judge barred the former first lady, Imelda Marcos, from travelling to Hong Kong this week.

The actress Elizabeth Taylor, attending an AIDS conference in Amsterdam, denounced President Bush's record on the disease. "I'm not even sure if he knows how to spell AIDS," she said.

German spaceman in danger of losing bus pass

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN



Honecker: dishonoured before unification

Retired Major General Rigmund Jahn, the first German in space, is in danger of losing his right to free travel on Berlin's public transport.

Chosen in August 1978 to join the Soyuz 31 mission, he was blasted into space with Valeri Bykovski, a Soviet cosmonaut. When they returned to Earth they were made honorary citizens of Berlin by the proud East German communist regime. Among their perks was the right to free travel on the city's public transport.

Since unification the Berlin Senate has been taking a long and careful look at the list of 25 people who were made

honorary citizens by the communists. So far only five are considered worthy of keeping the title. The Soviet cosmonaut is one, but his German companion in space is not.

Considerable controversy surrounds the removal of some names, including that of the first German spaceman, who is likely to be "dishonoured" simply because, the thinking goes, he must have been a committed communist to have been chosen for the mission. Others who will probably be removed include Soviet military commanders who helped liberate Berlin at the end of the war and communist resistance heroes who fought the Nazis.

There is little controversy over the removal of two names. Erich Honecker, the longest-serving East German leader, was crossed off the roll of honour by the East Berlin magistrates before unification. Wilhelm Pieck, the first East German president, remained on the East Berlin list although he was removed by West Berlin in 1948.

Four other more sinister names were removed by the Senate at the same time — those of Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and Wilhelm Frick.

The first honorary citizen of the city was created in 1813 and since then there have been only 99. Konrad Ade-

nauer, Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt have all been made members of this exclusive group. On October 3, the second anniversary of unification, Helmut Kohl, "the chancellor of unity" is to become the hundredth name, if the controversial East German nominees are excluded.

On November 9, the third anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, is to be honoured in the same way. He will doubtless be happy to learn that, apart from a free bus pass, the city will undertake to look after him should he fall on hard times. He will also qualify for a free funeral.

Climbers killed
Grenoble: Seven climbers including three Italians, an American, a Frenchman, and a French rescuer, were killed on Sunday in accidents in the French Alps. (Reuters)

Cash changed
Riga: Latvia has introduced its own currency as the only legal tender. The Latvian rouble is intended as a temporary currency until the lat is introduced.

Hitler 'jailed'
Bonn: Hitler's charred corpse was moved from Magdeburg, eastern Germany, in 1970 and could now be in a Moscow prison. *Der Spiegel* said. (Reuters)

EC demands UN expulsion of Belgrade

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOREIGN ministers of the European Community decided yesterday to call for the rump Yugoslavia to be expelled from the United Nations and all other international organisations, diplomats said.

At their meeting in Brussels the ministers also condemned the continued fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina in violation of the 39th Community-brokered ceasefire in the break-away Yugoslav republic. The ceasefire, agreed by leaders of the warring Serb, Croat and Muslim factions in talks with Lord Carrington, the EC mediator, in London last Friday, was supposed to come into effect on Sunday.

Diplomats in Brussels said the foreign ministers were still discussing a paragraph in their final statement dealing with refugees and humanitarian aid after an impassioned plea by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, for the

Community to take an active role in what he described as the worst refugee problem since the second world war.

The final wording of the ministers' call for the expulsion from international bodies of the new, smaller Yugoslavia proclaimed earlier this year by Serbia and Montenegro was not immediately available. But a draft prepared by senior officials said: "It is for Serbia and Montenegro to decide whether they wish to form a new federation. But this new federation cannot be accepted as the sole successor to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the light of this, the Community and its member states will oppose the participation of Yugoslavia in international bodies."

Last night Britain and France were involved in a diplomatic struggle over Lord Carrington's peace conference. Douglas Hurd, the for-



Runway patrol: a United Nations armoured personnel carrier, manned by Canadian troops, guarding Sarajevo airport. Renewed fighting among the city's warring militias yesterday completely severed for the first time the fragile lifeline of relief flights linking the Bosnian capital to the outside world

eign secretary, chairing the Brussels meeting, was resisting French proposals to widen the conference. Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, told the meeting that the failure of the EC's peace efforts required a new push.

He suggested that the conference, presently made up of EC diplomats and leaders of the former Yugoslav republics,

should be extended to include the UN Security Council and France, Russia and America, countries which might be able to bring pressure to bear on the warring parties. Britain objected to the proposal when it was first put forward by President Mitterrand earlier this month at the G7 summit in Munich.

Yesterday M Dumas ar-

gued that big outside powers had pushed the various sides in the Cambodian civil war to the negotiating table by exploiting their close connections with different factions. In similar fashion, Russia and France should put pressure on Serbia to compromise and Germany should urge Croatia to discuss peace. Italy supported the French initiative.

In the wake of the UN's suspension of aid flights to Sarajevo airport, several ministers said that Europe should ask the UN to provide enough troops to defend a land corridor through which food and medicine could be taken to beleaguered Bosnian towns. British officials also suggested that Mr Hurd, who arrived in Brussels after four days

travelling in the Balkans, wanted to extend the role of the EC's peace monitors supervising the peace line between Croatia and Serbia. He is understood to believe that international observers should be sent to the Albanian enclave of Kosovo, whose inhabitants have long-standing grievances against Serbia. Mr Hurd has apparently

returned from the capitals of the former Yugoslav republics unimpressed by most of the politicians he encountered, and in particular by their inability to acknowledge or influence the bloody events occurring throughout Bosnia.

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Leading article, page 13
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Bosnian aid piles up on Zagreb's runways

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN ZAGREB

FLIGHT 228 from Zagreb to Sarajevo never arrived. Forced to turn back in mid-air by artillery and mortar blasts at Sarajevo airport, the United Nations relief plane instead took its place yesterday morning among the row of lumbering C130 Hercules transport planes standing on the tarmac at Zagreb airport.

Renewed fighting among Sarajevo's warring militias yesterday completely severed for the first time the fragile lifeline of relief flights linking the Bosnian capital to the outside world. The latest ceasefire lasted just 90 minutes.

Three planes, one Canadian, one Belgian and one Italian were turned back in mid-air and a further 20 were cancelled. Groups of air crew, aid workers and journalists are hoping to enter Sarajevo unaided, but are being held back by the airport complex and giant articulated lorries packed with aid were backed up on nearby roads. A line of black Mercedes cars filled with

Croat dignitaries waited in vain for the arrival of Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, who was due in Zagreb yesterday for talks with Franjo Tudjman, the Croat counterpart.

Yuri Andriukow, pilot of the Canadian plane carrying 40,000lbs of food and water gave vent to his frustration: "You know there is going to be a problem all the time. Just look at all the other cessfires and see what happens. If you are coming in for a landing and a mortar round hits you it's lights out."

The fighting in Sarajevo was even more fierce after the ceasefire agreement was signed. The president said it was the worst in two weeks, with five people killed and 14 wounded in mortar bomb attacks.

Sarajevo's radio reported continued fighting in and around Gorazde, the last key town in Bosnia still under Muslim control. Clashes were also reported in Mostar, Bugojno, Visoko and Breza.

TIRANA NOTEBOOK by Michael Binyon

Land of eagles looks to lift-off

The principal export of Albania used to be abuse. Now the huge transmitters that broadcast Stalinist propaganda around the world stand almost silent. Instead of 21 languages, they now send only a trickle of news in English, French and German, and even that will soon stop. Instead, the Albanians want to beam in the BBC Albanian service.

Evidence of the late President Hoxha's paranoia is all over the countryside. In fields little concrete bunkers sprout like mushrooms, guarding all the approach roads to the capital. There are 80,000 — more than the number of telephones — waiting for the Soviet invasion that never came. Anti-aircraft guns are ranged along the hills.

But somehow communism seems incompatible with olive trees, vines and pine trees. The spectacular mountainous country, with the 15th-century fortress of Isakander Beg, the warrior who defeated the Turks, surrounds the capital like a panorama of icebergs. But in 30°C heat, with ox carts, mangy cattle and sheep lining the rutted roads, the country feels more like Greece or Turkey than any former communist country.

Awaking from half a century of isolation, the "land of eagles", as the country is called, welcomed the first British minister to set foot here. Douglas Hurd, the foreign minister, flew in on Sunday to an effusive welcome in the hot dusty streets — though he was not carried shoulder high as James Baker, the American Secretary of State, had been. Xenophobia has given way to a desperate attempt to catch up.

One novel proposal is to allow up to 5,000 Hong

Kong Chinese to buy Albanian citizenship. "We hear that in Canada they were ready to pay a million dollars each for passports," the presidential spokesman said. However, apart from a few tentative enquiries, there is no evidence that any Hong Kong citizens want to come. The proposal follows from a law offering citizenship to any Albanian wherever he lives — not only in troubled Kosovo and Macedonia.

Mr Hurd's visit has led to an outpouring of interest in all things British. Almost all the younger generation speaks English. Sali Berisha, the young president and former heart surgeon, is fluent. So are most of his ministers and the young elite trained in the dying days of the regime.

Albanians are now digging up their links with Britain, literally. Excavations in a city square began two days ago to look for the remains of 68 British, Australian and New Zealand officers and servicemen who were killed during the war-time liberation. Hoxha had the cemetery razed. Already British liaison officers who operated here during the war, Lord Amery and Colonel Stanley, have been back as official guests, and Commonwealth war graves commission officials are expected soon. The hope is a proper remembrance service for the dead can be held on Remembrance Sunday.

There are plans to tempt British Airways here — though tourism has a long way to go, and brigands in the mountains have led to official discouragement of travel. More profitably, Albania is negotiating to grow mussels for export to Sainsbury's.

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Italy suffers a crisis of faith

The latest Mafia bomb has shaken a nation's belief, writes Alan Copps

For years ordinary Italians have prided themselves on the art of *arrangiarsi* — their ability to live cheerful, even prosperous, lives despite the hopeless inadequacy of their political institutions. But as the dust settled in Sicily yesterday over the latest of the Mafia's illustrious corpses, even the most resilient must have had doubts. The most telling effect of the bomb that killed Judge Paolo Borsellino was in the financial markets, with shares on the Milan Bourse falling dramatically in early trading. The rush to sell showed, said one dealer, a lack of faith in Italy.

Italy may no longer be such a fervently Catholic country as it once was but faith, in the broader sense, remains an important element in its national life. Signor Borsellino shared with his predecessor Giovanni Falcone a rare faith that the Cosa Nostra could be beaten. Not long before his own assassination by a car bomb in May, Signor Falcone said on television: "The Mafia is not invincible. It is human, and as such had a beginning and will have an end."

But the plague of patronage offers crime and corruption an easy passage to the heart of the state. Falcone's public complaints about his investigations meeting with political obstruction in Rome gave support to the theory that Italy had failed to learn the lessons of its long struggle against terrorism. Despite that victory, bought at the cost of the lives of other brave investigators, nothing had been done to strengthen the fragile institutions of the state. The will is lacking for another long and bloody fight.

Signor Falcone made no secret of his belief that at a certain level of life in Sicily and other southern regions the Mafia and the political leadership found their interests converging. In 1986 it was estimated that 12.5 per cent of Italy's gross domestic product came from criminal activity, most of it controlled by the Mafia. The proportion has probably grown since. But although it may be garnered illegally this money is laundered through legitimate businesses, entrenching the Mafia in the country's economic system.

The breakthrough that led to the "maxi trials" of Mafia suspects in a bunker courtroom in Palermo in the 1980s was the result of Signor Falcone's painstaking efforts. In December 1987 he watched as 338 members were jailed for offences ranging from extortion to murder. The investigator had been a marked man throughout his last 14 years, which were dominated by his determination to take on the crime families. He wrote of the difficulty of the task: his belief that the Mafia was so deeply rooted in Italian society that there could be no short-term solution. A Sicilian himself, he was courageous and single-minded enough to adopt the lonely, heavily-protected, paranoid life-

style portrayed so convincingly in Francesco Rosi's film *Illustrious Corpses*. He paid the price for earning the Mafia's respect: its members made his death one of their sternest and most shocking symbols, using it to demonstrate their own strength when the state was at its weakest.

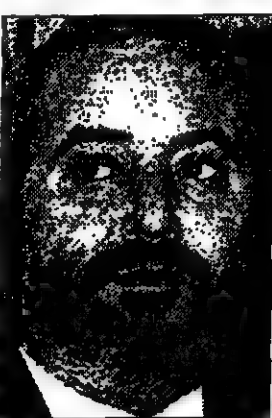
The Mafia killed Signor Falcone while the politicians squabbled pathetically in the aftermath of April's general election, in which the voters rebuffed the traditional parties whose kaleidoscopic coalitions have formed 50 governments in the past 45 years. Among the parties that gained were the Rete, specifically formed as an anti-Mafia movement in the south, and the northern leagues, whose main appeal relies on popular disgust with the corruption and disorganisation of Rome and the south.

When Signor Borsellino was asked to carry on the fight against the Mafia, he said: "It is difficult this time to find the same enthusiasm. I hope that a rapid conclusion to the enquiry into the Falcone assassination will make my enthusiasm return."

That hope disappeared in the dust and debris of an explosion that ripped up 200 yards of a street, and left 15 families homeless. It also left a country with even less faith in the will of its politicians to take on the Mafia. At the time of Signor Falcone's death the parliamentarians in Rome were on their seventh attempt to elect a new president. Galvanised to some extent by the wave of anger that followed, they elected Oscar Scalfaro, the former Speaker, who was seen as a reformer. They have since put together a government led by the socialist Giuliano Amato, which was viewed by many as a first sign of change. They have even passed the first tranche of new anti-Mafia laws giving police wider powers of arrest and investigation, paving the way for the appointment of a super-prosecutor to co-ordinate investigations throughout Italy.

Such a prosecutor had to be a man who knew the Mafia's mind. There was one obvious candidate: Paolo Borsellino, the deputy public prosecutor in Palermo, who had worked so closely with Signor Falcone on so many investigations. But he, too, had earned the respect of the Mafia and thus merited a similarly symbolic assassination.

That a new government pledged to reform and cleanse a creaking system could not protect this brave man against such a predictable attack is a shocking psychological setback to a population that has demonstrated its thirst for change. Unless Italy's leaders can offer more than mere rhetoric in support of investigations such as Signor Borsellino they risk losing the support of allies, investors and admirers who have helped the country emerge from the aftermath of fascism to become a modern state.



Falcone: his death was a useful symbol to the Mafia

Statistics used to comfort women after the Wimbledon murder are fatuous, says Janet Daley

Reasonable dreads

Women ought not to frighten themselves unduly over the Wimbledon Common murder. Or so we have been told. Statistically, the odds on it for anything like it happening to any one of us are so astronomical as to be beyond mathematical expression. Faced with female anxiety, the authorities give us a reassuring pat on the head and heap upon us the statistics which show that the people actually in most danger are young men, who are far more likely to be assaulted and mugged than women or the elderly. So that's all right then.

Never mind that the young male victims are rarely subjected to anything worse than black eyes and bruised ribs. That the most common form of such assaults takes place in ritualised clashes between rival gangs who are all participating enthusiastically in the blood sport. And that much of the "mugging" among young men involves little more than the confiscation of each other's Nike trainers. Somehow this does not seem to me to rank with rape, repeated stabbing, having your throat cut so violently as nearly to sever the head, and all of it done in the presence of your two-year-old child.

In the News in Brief column of this newspaper yesterday were three relevant items: the naked body of a woman has been found in a field in South Yorkshire; police are warning of a rapist who poses as a house buyer, attacking women who allow him in the door on the plausible excuse of wishing to view their homes; and there are fears for the safety of a 15-year-old girl who has been missing for a week. None of these items, statistically rare though they may be, is trivial. The puppyish, mutually understood violence of young men against evenly matched opponents is not of the same order at all. To compare the two kinds of violence (even to mention them in the same breath) is absurd and offensive.

This ludicrous formula trotted out by the police whenever there is outrage over a violent crime against a woman seems to suggest that it is young men who, by all rights, should be covering in their homes, fearful of the dark; that it is the parents of sons and not

daughters who should worry themselves sick if their offspring are late home. But of course, common sense not having been entirely extinguished by statistics, neither of these things will come to pass. We all know that the things which happen to women in the course of a violent attack, however "unlikely" it may be, are of a different order from the bear-cub bawling of young males putting their virility to the test.

Women are neither paranoid nor hysterical to be terrified by an incident such as the attack on Wimbledon Common. Unlike the version of sadomasochism: an addiction to perverse sexual practices that needs larger and larger doses to provide the required thrill. The unprovoked frenzy of sexual vengeance which some men direct at completely unknown women does not even have the logic of a throwback to primitive survival, as most male violence does.

What women suspect is that this bestiality is related to the under-

about predictable danger with which normal women are equipped with serve them in guard against this kind of evil. We might as well be on another planet. And there is no evading the fact that this kind of danger is almost exclusive to women.

True there have been homosexual killers who have chosen male victims for violation and sacrifice. But even in those cases, the prey usually had initially to be biddable, as with Jeffrey Dahmer's rent boys and Dennis Nilsen's pick-ups. But this sort of activity has often seemed more like an extreme version of sadomasochism: an addiction to perverse sexual practices that needs larger and larger doses to provide the required thrill. The unprovoked frenzy of sexual vengeance which some men direct at completely unknown women does not even have the logic of a throwback to primitive survival, as most male violence does.

What women suspect is that this bestiality is related to the under-

current that they sense in much misogynistic behaviour: that they have ceased to be, in the eyes of such men, anything except the demonological figures of generalised hatred. That their individual lives and identities are of no consequence in this equation. It is no good talking in crude numbers about the instances of attack. Women know that they are a target for an especially dehumanising kind of violence in which real victims exist purely as the objects of fantasy.

The mythology surrounding women used, in its way, to offer a degree of protection. I remember that when my children were small I could use them as virtual chaperones, because a woman with a child in tow was not pestered and ogled. Even in countries where sexual harassment is a way of life, such as Italy, a woman carrying a baby is generally safe from molestation because she becomes, in the cultural iconography, a kind of madonna. But the monster who found Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common was clearly possessed of a loathing that exceeded even this taboo. It is the odium, as much as the acts, which women have good reason to fear.

Who cares about affairs?

Martin Ivens on changing postures in the age-old political sex scandal

A "top Tory", as the tabloids would have it, has been exposed by Fleet Street for having a dangerous liaison with a woman of doubtful reputation. The country has been fighting for its very life against incorporation into Europe and this pillar of state is charged with enormous responsibilities for national security. Official secrets are at risk through careless pillow talk. Does he resign?

On August 5, the *St James Chronicle* broke its sensational scoop. Written in the coy style of newspaper diaries employ to ward off libel writs but none the less titillate readers, the story was published under the headline "Fashionable Alliteration". The *Chronicle* said: "A report is very prevalent in the first Parisian circles that a distinguished commander has surrendered himself captive to the beautiful wife of a military officer of high rank, in a manner to make a very serious investigation of this offence indispensable."

According to the *Chronicle* the case might lead to a "criminal conversation charge", the quaint term for being cited as a co-respondent. The distinguished commander was, of course, the Duke of Wellington, the year 1815 and the lady the wife of the military officer Captain Wedderburn-Webster. But the thought of resignation never entered Wellington's head.

His reply to charges of sexual peccadilloes was characteristic of a robust age. When told that Lady Frances Shelley had rejected the advances of a fat Austrian baron with the explanation she could not surrender, as "I have even resisted the Duke of Wellington", the Duke commented to his niece: "In my own justification... I was never aware of this resistance."

In those enlightened days politicians resigned on grounds of political principle, or because their policies had not worked: not

because they were caught with their trousers down. Today ministers make colossal errors of judgment and hang grimly on to office. Politicians can tell whooping lies about the state of the economy and live to tell the tale. They can even cause lives to be lost. But if they look at a woman not their wife...

Until late in the 19th century an active sex life did not harm politicians. In 1863 the prime minister Lord Palmerston was 79 but still vigorous. He too was threatened with citation in a case of criminal conversation over his relations with a certain Mrs. Cane. The joke in dubland was that "She was Cain, but was he Abel?" In a letter to his colleague, the Earl of Derby, Disraeli feared that Palmerston's virility might translate into strength at the polls. "The Palmerston escapade", Disraeli wrote, "It should make him at least ridiculous; perhaps it may make him even more popular."

Disraeli, however, observed that the spirit of the times was changing. Palmerston's "absurd escapade" was "a little annoying for the Low Church party which had acknowledged him as the man of God". The widening of the franchise in Victorian England gave the non-conformist conscience a say in national life and morals. Latter-day Puritans who crusaded for restrictions on alcohol and Sunday amusements would not put up with moral laxity in high places. The trick was to keep up the semblance of the sanctity of marriage while pursuing affairs.

Thus Charles Stewart Parnell was destroyed when his affair with



Mistress mine: Wellington with one of his numerous lovers, Harriet Arbuthnot

Kitty O'Shea came into the courts. Gladstone had known about it but he pocketed his morality to keep his ally. Only when Captain William O'Shea filed a petition for divorce naming Parnell as co-respondent was the game up. Nonconformist opinion forced Gladstone to drop him. The Catholic hierarchy then supported Parnell for good after he did the decent thing and married Mrs O'Shea. For refusing to abandon her Parnell was pronounced morally unfit for leadership.

Similarly, Sir Charles Dilke at 36 was tipped by Disraeli to become prime minister. His career as a rising star was ruined when Virginia Crawford, the 22-year-old wife of a Scottish Liberal lawyer, told her husband she had been Dilke's mistress for three years. The press, especially the influential *Pall Mall Gazette*, hounded him. When he tried to clear his name in court he lost and was cast into political obscurity. David Lloyd George had a virtually bigamous marriage.

Perhaps if politicians would preach at the public less they would be less vulnerable to the sexual McCarthyism of the tabloids. There is no better defence of private conduct than the reply given by the Georgia senator Wyche Fowler to one inquisitive Sixties smoke a marijuana cigarette? Fowler took a deep breath and replied with a disdain worthy of Wellington: "Only when committing adultery."



...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

I should have gone to Shell. That is by way of being both a lesson learnt and the opening of an apology, albeit belated, to feel along with breakfast at a small Cornish hotel. Not all of them will have noticed. Sam being a time of day when powers of observation are not yet honed to the levels they will reach by, say, lunchtime. Honed, sharpened, razor-edged... the summoning of these particular words is no idle matter, no mere stabbing at the thesaurus with a sharp instrument. A sharp instrument? I can scarce bear to think of it. The tall lady, all grooming, she will have noticed. Another guest had already taken on the embarrassing bit, the establishing of her nationality, by asking which part of Germany she was from. They handle that question well, do the Austrians. She came close bearing a map. She and husband were on a tour. As part thereof they were considering a visit to Lunz Ent and sought advice as to route. Land's End I said, and she said ja. Lunz Ent. We pored, as people do, over maps. She will have noticed, then, the fluffy remnants of removed paper tissue and even perhaps the tiny scars.

Men cannot pack that, come to think of it, is an even more fundamental lesson than the one about going to Shell. You let men pack, you get twice the socks and three times the amount of trousering as could possibly be required even in the event of a siege, but you do not get the razor blades and the

shaving foam. The psyche has spoken. The psyche has said that whereas trousers and socks are not, yet, easily purchased late at night along with 60 litres of unleaded, blades, foam, TV dinners, bread, milk and Jeffrey Archer in paperback, these are not a problem. Not if you are Shell.

An oil company? Get up to date. Their latest television commercials give up the pretence that they are any longer entirely wedded to the Rotterdam spot market, Saudi Arabian light crude, black gold gushing from the virgin desert. "Shell convenience stores", that is what they advertise now.

You go in to pay for petrol and you are a bit of a social misfit, a nuisance. People trying to pay for shoulders of lamb, wedges of goat's cheese, packets of multi-coloured balloons and the like stand fuming in the queue, delayed by some moron who wants petrol, oil and the number three car wash, if that is the one which includes wheel scrub. You can feel the resentment on the nape of your neck, they have ripped out for a pizza and a baseball cap, back in a jiffy, and have become stuck behind a fool wanting fuel.

But I did not go to Shell. I had not, at the time, seen the television commercials, and anyway, late at night in Cornwall you are not searching for brand names. You are searching for anything with a light on. More than one person, finding himself in urgent need of a pack of playing cards, has driven

miles, like a moth delirious for a flame, only to fetch up at the foot of an onshore lighthouse.

So I went to a non-Shell former oil company and sure enough the spirits briefly rose. They had a fetching display of toiletries, they had deodorant, both roll-on and spray, they had aftershave. They had razors. I approached the cashier.

"I see you have razors," I said, "but no blades."

"Really?" he said. "It's the wholesalers."

"And I see your stock level as regards blades is matched by your stock level as regards shaving foam."

"I wouldn't be surprised," he said. "The wholesalers do it, y'see. They stock us up."

Alternatives were all around me. I suppose you could in theory have some sort of shave using a tub of margarine and the edge of a postcard. Down near the motorway accessories display there was a Swiss Army penknife, but this seemed an excessive investment in exchange for a shave.

That is how I came, next morning, to be feeding a face that had caught fire. It was the blunt blade and the bar of soap. I thought of pretending to be George Michael. Indeed, you could see at once how designer stubble caught on with warblers. All that touring, all that chasing about about late at night in search of life's necessities. It's the wholesalers, George. But you could try Shell. The signs are going up: "Last convenience store before Lunz Ent".

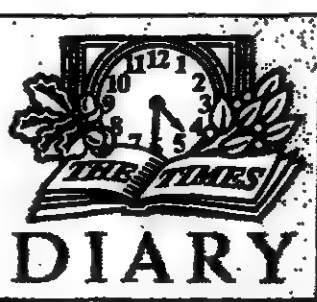
Going, going, going

IF Lord Carrington is in despair over his efforts to secure peace in Bosnia, he can at least take heart that his chairmanship of Christie's appears to have produced more concrete results.

While the auction house last week became the focus of international attention as Carrington conducted peace talks at the Green Park offices, figures due to be released at the end of next week are expected to show that for the first time in almost 40 years Christie's is within striking distance of surpassing its rival Sotheby's as the world's number one auction house.

The resurgence of Christie's is not good news for Lord Carrington's former cabinet colleague Lord Gowrie, chairman of Sotheby's, which has had the upper hand since 1954. By the 1970s Sotheby's, under the old Etonian Peter Wilson, was estimated to be twice as big as Christie's. A spokeswoman yesterday confirmed that Sotheby's is bracing itself for poor results. "The figures are considerably down on the calendar year compared to 1990 because of the paralysis created by the recession and the after-effects of the Gulf war," she says.

Informed opinion suggests that while it may remain marginally behind, Christie's has at the very least closed the gap dramatically. If so, the figures will inevitably fuel speculation that Gowrie, who abandoned his job in government because of the low pay, may not be in the post for long. "Gowrie resents the fact that all key decisions cannot be taken without deferring to the Americans," says one close to the auction house. "Nobody will be surprised if he quits before the end of the year. He is very fed up."



Hard soap

KEN LOACH, whose films include *Cathy Come Home* and *Kes*, has been rebuffed in his plans to produce Britain's first left-wing soap. Channel 4 has decided the world is not ready for a Marxist answer to *El Dorado* and *Neighbours*, and the channel has rejected a proposal from Loach for a regular weekly slot. Instead it has agreed to a limited drama series. *The Works* is based in a British factory coming to terms with Japanese-style working practices, and Loach makes little effort to disguise the fact that he believes the class struggle is alive and well.

"The fact is that places of work are fundamentally places of conflict, which would be reflected in the plot," says Loach, who admits to "mercifully" having only seen part of an *El Dorado* episode. He regrets that class is ignored by present soaps. "When *Coronation Street* started it was not cynical. It was a good idea about the lives of a group of ordinary but interesting people. *EastEnders* probably started the same. But *El Dorado* was always about exploitation."

As John Smith moved into the Opposition leader's office yesterday, Neil Kinnock was coming to terms with his new role in the privacy of his back garden. The

Kinnocks, having just moved to a bigger property in Ealing, had their work cut out. "It is a much bigger garden you know," said an aide who until Saturday lunch-time was in the former Labour



leader's employ. "It has got a very big back lawn. He was in good spirits on Saturday and planning a quiet day in the garden on Monday."

Right back

WITH the struggle for the intellectual heart of the Tory party showing no signs of abating, the Centre for Policy Studies, the begueter of Thatcherism, has returned to its roots. Gerry Frost, the original secretary of the group set up by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in 1975, has been appointed director of the think-tank.

Frost is virtually unknown outside the Thatcherite praetorian guard, but Lady Thatcher and Lord Joseph were both consulted and personally approved the appointment. An avowed Eurosceptic, he will join forces with John O'Sullivan, editor of the *American National Review*, who is on the advisory council and who drafted Lady Thatcher's Hague

speech, or "Bruges Two" as it has become known.

The director of the CPS, David Wilets, the new Tory MP for Havant, was embroiled in a power struggle at the end of his five-year reign when he was effectively squeezed out after accusations that he had "gone soft" on controversial issues. Frost is expected to restore Thatcherite rigour, although whether the CPS can ever again wield the influence at the highest level of government is open to question. Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, for one, has little time for the think-tank.

The very model

GONE are the days when students were scruffy, bedemolled creatures, given to revolting and demonstrating. But few can have realised that the pendulum had swung so far in the other direction. The National Union of Students has elected a former fashion student as president — the first leader not to have had a university education — who confesses to feeling more at home reading the pages of *Vogue* than *Socialist Worker*.

Lorna Fitzsimons, the diminutive, upwardly mobile new NUS president, says: "Of course I am conscious of how I present myself. I am a professional and have to dress as befits my position. I try to look smart, stylish and elegant. I suppose in that sense I have broken the traditional image of a student stereotype."

From the brochure for the ferry serving Oban, Mull, Staffa and Iona: "Children half-price. Reductions for youth clubs and disabled groups. Dogs 50 pence per leg. It could possibly refer to the fee for each island hop. Or perhaps not. The RSPCA will surely wish to find out."



MELLOR'S MISFORTUNE

Politicians' marriages being notoriously hazardous, an average British cabinet is likely to contain several members who are experiencing marital difficulties. Adultery is a common symptom of such breakdowns. It is probable, therefore, that at any time one or more cabinet ministers will be engaging in an affair. Regrettable though this may be, unless it is some direct consequence for public life it is not the business of anybody else.

The Press Complaints Commission's ethical code, which all national newspaper editors have agreed to observe, is clear about the conditions under which the public interest permits enquiries into an individual's private life. It says the public interest lies in the detecting or exposing of crime or other serious anti-social conduct (a phrase not intended to refer to marital infidelity); protecting public health and safety; and preventing the public from being misled by public statements.

Even if David Mellor, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, was indeed having an extramarital affair, this does not meet these conditions. Not only would the code rule out the publication of a story describing his alleged affair; it would also restrain any journalistic enquiry or investigation leading up to such publication. Only right at the end of events, when Mr Mellor offered his resignation to the prime minister having learned of the imminent exposure in *The People* next day, did a legitimate reason for reporting the matter arise. A cabinet minister's proffered resignation is for the public domain; when it happens simultaneously with a newspaper scandal about his private life, other channels of the mass media may legitimately point out the connection.

By violating his privacy in this way *The People* newspaper has not only hurt Mr Mellor and his family. It has done no favours to journalism. It has given ammunition to those who want to see press intrusion redressed by law. *The People* came upon evidence that Mr Mellor had said in private

that his affair was making him so tired that he could no longer write good speeches. Here, says *The People's* editor Bill Hagerty, lay the public interest in the exposure of Mr Mellor's dalliance. On balance it is difficult to take that very seriously. It suggests *The People* is using the public interest in Mr Mellor's speech-making as a fig leaf.

There is no pretence *The People* had mounted an investigation, in the public interest, of the causes of an apparent want of lustiness at the Dispatch Box by Mr Mellor. It was simply looking for an excuse for publishing an old-fashioned sex scandal. And the legitimate public interest in a possible cabinet resignation arose only after *The People's* investigation was complete, and cannot therefore be called in aid to justify it.

Mr Mellor will survive; and the experience he has been through is hardly in the first rank of human misfortune. Nor does it follow that he will eventually be harder on the press when he comes to consider the case for legislation, after the present review by Sir David Calcutt, QC. His experience may even focus his thoughts on the impossibility of drafting any effective anti-intrusion or privacy-defence law.

How, if such matters were *sub judice*, would such a law allow one newspaper to deplore another's conduct? How could a law be couched to test the speciousness of Mr Hagerty's remarks about Mr Mellor's speech-writing abilities, yet allow newspapers the freedom to explain the reason why Mr Mellor offered his resignation? There is no safe way to draw such legal lines. Some things improperly interest the public because of an idle or prurient curiosity. Some things may affect the public's interests as they touch the common weal. Editors, above all, ought to know the difference. It is an editorial and political judgment, not a legal one. Judges and juries would make a hopeless mess of it. To leave the cure to them may do more damage than the disease.

BALKAN BAD FAITH

There was a weary inevitability about the collapse of the Bosnian ceasefire negotiated with such pains by Lord Carrington. Bad faith is the common currency of the Balkans. The fractious leaders have little authority over the vicious and often drunken gunmen who confront each other across the ruins of Sarajevo. The United Nations has far too few troops on the ground to monitor the silencing of heavy artillery. And all sides still believe a military victory is possible, and that international political pressure on them to negotiate can be discounted.

They are wrong. Neither the triumphant Serbs, cutting a swathe across Bosnia and poised to slaughter the Muslims of Gorazde, nor the despairing Muslims looking in vain for more weapons and outside intervention, nor yet the perfidious Croats, seizing the rump of Bosnia while publicly upholding the integrity of its frontiers, can count on the permanence of military occupation. The United Nations has already imposed draconian sanctions on Serbia, which will rapidly start to bite. The European Community will neither accept the de facto partition of Bosnia nor allow the Carrington peace process to be bypassed.

Nothing will come of his efforts if the warring, hypocritised by the past and its imagined injustices, are intent only on vengeance. Cynics will say that until the level of suffering and exhaustion has reached that of Lebanon, negotiations are pointless. That does not mean the international community should sit back and wait, while starvation, disease and a tide of refugees push the bounds of the conflict across all south-eastern Europe. However despatched he may feel, Lord Carrington offers the only realistic alternative to war.

He is not attempting to impose an outside solution; he is not offering the phoney buffer of an international peace force; he is not promising to remedy the history of the past 70 years. Instead he is attempting to force

each community to confront today's political and military realities, to confine the focus narrowly to former Yugoslavia, and from a patchwork of local agreements, to build a basis for constitutional talks. Douglas Hurd knows that any dilution of the conference, any attempt to broaden it by bringing in other countries, will only blur the focus and give the Serbs what they want. He has no intention of proposing any British solution; but he wants Britain's partners to continue unambiguous support for Lord Carrington.

As important as continuing the Bosnian talks is the need for action to stop the conflict spreading south. Kosovo, the Albanian-populated southern part of Serbia whose former autonomy has been revoked, is on the point of explosion. Mr Hurd was blunt to the point of confrontation in his recent talks with Slobodan Milosevic, brushing aside the Serbian president's lies about Belgrade's guarantee of human rights and insisting that these be "persuasively" upheld. If ever there was a time and need for the kind of preventive diplomacy proposed at the recent Helsinki summit, it is in Kosovo. Lord Carrington must insist on the immediate dispatch of monitors there.

An explosion in Kosovo would quickly draw in two other countries — Macedonia and Albania, and possibly also Greece. Macedonia's plight is compounded by the cowardly and myopic decision of the EC to pander to Greek paranoia by refusing to recognise Macedonia under its current name. Albanians in Macedonia and Albania are already preparing to take up arms to help their oppressed kinsmen in Kosovo. Greece, in its present irrational mood, would lose no time in intervening under the guise of enforcing stability. And how long could Bulgaria remain neutral? Only brutal world pressure on Milosevic, the rapid mobilising of CSCE monitors, and the immediate restart of talks in the Carrington process, can avert full-scale war in the Balkans.

BETTING ON ONE'S HEDGES

The hedgerows of the lowlands of England are the most characteristic feature of its green and pleasant land, and a national treasure. Since Julius Caesar came to see, tourists from wider and wilder landscapes have remarked on the greenness and seclusion of the English countryside, its patchwork of small fields separated by thick hedges, homes of the unspectacular but fiercely loved native fauna and flora, from the rabbit to the unofficial English rose. The hedgerows have deep roots in the English identity, going back centuries.

The prairification of East Anglia and the other arable districts of southern England by the grubbing out of hedges has been one of the most unplanned and resented changes of the past generation. Yesterday the environment department unveiled its Hedgerow Incentive Scheme, the centrepiece of the prime minister's manifesto pledge to come to the aid of the remaining hedgerows. Mr Major's constituency of Huntingdon lies in the heart of the new English hedgeless prairie. The scheme will provide grants to farmers who agree to ten-year programmes of hedgerow restoration and management.

The countryside cannot be frozen in the time-war of some idyllic townie pattern, a theme park of Merrie England when farmers wore smocks and used pitchforks. Those who farm it with modern machines need bigger fields than those of a few acres a century ago, when a regiment of farm workers and their wives and children made hay and stooks in the summer, and hedged hay and stooks in the winter. Electric fences are movable, and more stockproof than even the thickest hedges. The skills of

hedging and ditching, with billhook and spade, have disappeared from country lore, and the failing mechanical hedge-cutters are less clever than the humans at laying a hedge that will thicken out.

Modern food surpluses and the changes in the common agricultural policy make it possible for the first time since Capability Brown to plan the English countryside for its appearance as well as profit. Yesterday's modest incentive scheme of £3.6 million over three years is a little carrot to bribe farmers to restore and revive the vanishing hedgerows. The government must now also provide the planning stick it has promised, either by its own legislation, or by supporting the private member's bill of Mr Peter Ainsworth, the member for the rolling acres of Surrey East, scheduled for second reading next January.

Farmers and landowners must be made to notify the local authority of their intention to destroy a hedgerow, and it must become a criminal offence, punishable by a system of fines, to destroy a hedgerow without authorisation. Hedgerows are humble and not obviously profitable elements of our countryside, in the past used as an epithet for the low, as in hedge-priest, hedge-writer, etc. But the hedge-chopping of the past generation has made us recognise that there is something of value in the humble English hedge, the last refuge of wilderness in parts of the island. The countryside will continue to evolve, as it always has done, to meet new needs and uses. But the time has come to register and protect hedges of special wildlife, landscape or historical importance, as the law protects listed buildings. Without its old hedges, England would not be England.

Sensible caution in criminal justice

From Mr Michael Chance

Sir, Mr Charles Pollard, chief constable of Thames Valley (letter, July 13; report, July 14) calls for radical changes to the criminal justice system. But the royal commission, which is due to report in a year's time, should proceed with caution in a field that has had to accommodate enormous recent change.

Two major pieces of legislation followed the report of the earlier royal commission. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 came into force in 1986 and made wide-ranging changes to the operational work of the police. Those changes were absorbed only with considerable difficulty. Few would claim that there was no loss of efficiency as officers struggled to familiarise themselves with the new order.

Most of the highly-publicised miscarriages of justice, including that of the Darvell brothers in Swansea (report, July 15), resulted from pre-1986 investigations before the new machinery took effect; the changes (and above all the tape recording of interviews with suspects) go far to prevent recurrences.

The home secretary has announced (report, May 21) a fresh review of the police service, which will almost certainly lead to further upheaval.

The Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 led to the establishment of the Crown Prosecution Service in 1986. It is settling down, but would surely have difficulty in accommodating early and major changes.

Responsibility for the magistrates' courts, where the great majority of criminal cases are heard, has been transferred from the Home Office to the Lord Chancellor's department. There is a new (and not universally loved) system for financing those courts. A substantial programme of amalgamations for administrative purposes is under way, placing heavy demands on staff.

Magistrates deal with family cases as well as criminal ones and there have been root-and-branch changes in that field too.

The government is to introduce a new system of fixed fees for legally-aided defence work in the magistrates' courts and its proposals have caused widespread dismay amongst practitioners whose work is crucial to the fairness of the system.

Last year's Criminal Justice Act, to take effect in October, makes massive changes to the sentencing of offenders. The courts, criminal lawyers and probation officers are amongst those facing another great challenge.

Excessive change costs money and leads to mistakes and inefficiency. Let us only have changes that are necessary to secure the just disposal of cases and manageable by those who have to cope with them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHANCE
(Deputy Director, Serious Fraud Office, 1987-90),
Driftwood, 8 Seaview Bay,
Pier Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight.
July 15.

Protecting rail victims

From Mr C. P. Mather

Sir, One of the few good things to come out of the rail crashes at Clapham Junction in December 1988 and the Severn tunnel in December 1991 was the almost immediate admission of liability by British Rail. This enabled the claims by the bereaved and injured for compensation to be relatively simple and the bulk of them to be dealt with reasonably quickly. There were three trains involved at Clapham and the immediate cause was eventually put down to problems with signals.

Imagine the position of the victims following the sale of parts of British Rail. If each of the three trains in a crash were owned by different companies, say the successors of Network SouthEast, InterCity and a freight company, and the cause unclear but possibly the responsibility of the track and signalling company, then the result could be years of litigation to decide which company was to blame. Some protection for victims must be written into the enabling legislation.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. MATHER
(Chairman, solicitors' steering committee for the Clapham and Severn tunnel rail crashes),
Warner Goodman & Street,
14-16 Portland Terrace,
Southampton, Hampshire.
July 15.

Goebbels diaries

From Mr Edwin Prince

Sir, According to Janet Daley ("Even bigots have rights", July 14) "the question of what we do about people with repulsive views, but who are not known to have committed immoral acts, can have only one answer in a free society, and that is: nothing at all". Is not the denial of the Holocaust and Hitler's participation in it a grossly immoral act?

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN PRINCE,
10 Essex Street,
Outer Temple, WC2.
July 14.

The signatures of Mr Ian Hay Davison and Mr Michael Stoddart were inadvertently omitted from yesterday's letter on the Maastricht treaty signed by Mr Rodney Leach and six other leading businessmen.

Rejoining Unesco: call for action now

From Mr Bowen Wells, MP for Hertford and Stortford (Conservative) and others

Sir, Our letter of May 28 urged the British government to resume membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco). The United States Congress received at the end of June a report from its General Accounting Office commending favourably on the reforms undertaken at Unesco in recent years.

The report concludes that, following the election of a new director-general in 1987, management of financial and human resources has been much strengthened. It notes that the number of programme areas has been reduced to ensure greater effectiveness and there is increasing decentralisation of staff and activities from the Paris headquarters to the field.

These findings answer many of the criticisms of Unesco put forward by the United States and the United Kingdom as reasons for their respec-

tive withdrawals in 1984 and 1985.

We would urge the government to resume British membership this autumn so that we can play our part in determining the organisation's next medium-term plan and selecting the new director-general and, hopefully, reclaim our seat on the executive board.

Failure to act now will mean we will be unable to influence the policy to be followed by Unesco for another five to six years and British consultants and universities will be denied the opportunity of fruitful contracts.

Yours faithfully,
BOWEN WELLS,
ALEX CARLILE (Lib Dem),
GEORGE FOULKES (Lab),
RUSSELL JOHNSTON (Lib Dem),
JIM LESTER (C),
JOAN LESTOR (Lab),
ROBERT MACLENNAN (Lib Dem),
EMMA NICHOLSON (C),
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND (C),
DAFYDD WIGLEY (Plaid Cymru),
House of Commons.
July 14.

MPs' expenses

From Mr Michael Keegan

Sir, I became the Conservative MP for Nottingham South in 1955. On arrival at the Palace of Westminster I was assigned a locker in the corridor running from the central lobby to the smoking room. It reminded me of the locker in which I kept football boots, etc., at my prep school, although slightly larger. My salary as an MP was £1,000 p.a. This was increased to £1,750 during that Parliament.

I could not afford a secretary, or possibly a secretary could not afford to work for me. For the first six months of my sojourn at Westminster I wrote letters by hand (two illegible carbon copies — one for my constituent and one for my boot locker). Eventually I obtained one third of a secretary for £7 per week and the free use of another member's typewriter. Notepaper and travel to

and from my constituency were provided free of charge.

I spent four nights a week in London at my own expense when Parliament was sitting. Some enterprising members found ways of reducing their expenses or raising their incomes. One Scottish member spent at least two nights a week on the sleeper to his constituency, only to return the following morning; another bagged as many of the private dining rooms as he could for resale to his constituency organisations at a handsome profit.

My constituency not being far enough away precluded me from availing myself of the former; and I had not the cheek to attempt the latter.

I did not stand again in 1959.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL KEEGAN,
5 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
July 16.

Quality of beaches

From Mr Guy Linley-Adams

Sir, I applaud the efforts of Nicholas Watt ("Britain fights for impartial testing of beach quality", July 11) to highlight the differences in the methodologies by which the member states of the EC assess their own compliance with the EC Bathing Water Directive.

However, it is essential that the debate over whether Britain is "more honest" than other EC countries over the state of its beaches and bathing waters is not allowed to obscure the fact that as your report and map of July 6 showed, many famous resorts in the UK are unacceptably contaminated with sewage.

My fear is that the inconsistencies highlighted may be used by the UK government to make the directive the first victim of subsidiarity. The political rewards are clear, but this directive has the protection of public health throughout the EC at its heart.

Pedestrianised London

From the Leader of the Council, London Borough of Camden

Sir, I am glad that Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of a major London business, realises how much the physical environment of the capital has deteriorated in recent years (letter, July 10). Pedestrianisation of more streets would certainly improve the quality of urban life for both residents and those who work in London.

The problem is how can a London-wide policy be established when there is no unified government for London? As the leader of a central London borough I am particularly aware of the problems caused by the lack of strategic authority. Thirty-two London boroughs individually have to make major decisions on important matters, some of which have regional implications.

In our case we are responsible for the future development of the 134-acre King's Cross railway lands site.

Library charges

From the Chief Executive of the British Library

Sir, As you reported on July 18, the British Library board made two important decisions yesterday.

It agreed that access to the new reading rooms at St Pancras would be based on "need to use" rather than on any other criterion, such as age, thus affirming that our collections are indeed available to all those who need them. It also decided not to introduce a charge for a reader pass at this time; it will look again at this issue in the light of operating experience, after the opening of St Pancras.

I cannot agree with Mr Brian Lake (letter, July 17) that the library is in a period of crisis. Certainly we are experiencing change at a rapid rate: certainly the new building at St Pancras has led to a reappraisal of the library's structure and function; but this has been and continues to be a strengthening process for those of us charged with managing the future of the world's leading national research library.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANG,
Chief Executive,
The British Library,
96 Euston Road,
St Pancras, NW1.
July 18.

and has undoubtedly forced the UK water service industry into investing in sewage-treatment works in many UK locations.

If the directive is not functioning as it should throughout the EC we must reform it, not repeat it.

Yours sincerely,
GUY LINLEY-ADAMS
(Pollution Officer),
Marine Conservation Society,
9 Gloucester Road,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

From Mr R. B. Cruse

Sir, You report an environment department spokeswoman as saying that an independent inspectorate would ensure that tests of beach and seawater quality are carried out "on a level playing field". Surely this is impractical.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. CRUSE,
3 Albert Road,
New Milton, Hampshire.

and for petitioning Parliament on the bill for the Channel tunnel terminus. Besides the cost of this work to our poll-tax payers, we do not have the resources to take into account the needs of areas 30 or 40 miles away.

As a result of the present government's policies the people of London are not only without a proper regional system of local government. They now have to humbly accept the decisions of their new rulers — a cabinet sub-committee which meets in secret.

I suggest Sir Nicholas writes to them and asks them why they want Red Routes for London — which speed up traffic and attract more commuters in cars — and have not produced policies for more pedestrianisation. I would be interested to see the reply he receives.

Yours faithfully,
JULIE FITZGERALD,
Room 125, Camden Town Hall,
Euston Road, NW1.
July 16.

From Mr George Chowdhary-Best

Sir, What concerns me more than the possibility of charges for readers' tickets at the British Library is that surrounding major libraries of the University of London in Bloomsbury, whether coincidentally or in concert, are seeking to impose much higher charges on occasional academic readers, especially if those readers are not on the teaching staffs of major institutions.

For example, upon attempting to renew my annual ticket at the School of Oriental and African Studies Library on July 16, I was told that a fee of £35 per annum would be payable even for quite occasional reference use; what is worse, I would be required to provide a fresh letter of recommendation because my original sponsor (over 30 years ago) had died.

When I jibbed at the size of the fee demanded for doing work which is frequently unpaid, I was told that University College Library up the road was charging £150 per annum to outside borrowers. I queried the figure, but it was confirmed.

Yours faithfully,
G. CHOWDHARY-BEST,
27 Walpole Street, SW3.
July 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Telling children about Aids

From Mr Michael Jarman

Sir, Bryan Appleyard's article, "What children should know" (July 15), refers to Barnardo's recent conference on the subject of how best to inform children about HIV and Aids.

Our survey did indeed find that the majority of 11 to 13-year-olds gained most of their information from the media and highlighted patchy understanding of the facts.

The article's complex argument contrasts strongly with the simple message we aim to put across: that children need straightforward facts in the context of a broadly-based health and sex education programme within schools, in order to make informed decisions about their health.

The children and young people who took part in our conference most certainly endorsed this view.

We would agree with Mr Appleyard that there are indeed "no more anguished warriors... than children between the ages of ten and 15". This seems to us to strengthen the argument for giving children the facts in a planned way. It is ignorance and confusion that lead to "playground myths", prejudice and anxiety.

Far from being a "pressure group... manipulating the young", Barnardo's wishes to encourage parents, teachers and all those responsible for the education and welfare of children to engage in this vital debate over public health education.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JARMAN
(Director of Child Care),
Barnardo's,
Tanners Lane, Barkingside,
Ilford, Essex.
July 15.

Shire reforms

From the Leader of East Sussex County Council

Sir, Councillor Michael Bishop (letter, July 7) asserts that a shire-dweller would contact their district council or district councillor on almost any matter except schools and police. In Councillor Bishop's area, Rother, East Sussex County Council has nine members, as well as 83 public outlets run by the county council, providing a direct service. These include local social services offices, libraries and fire stations, as well as schools and police. They are all points of contact for the public.

In my experience county councillors in rural areas are far from remote and maintain strong links with local parish councils.

My council does not use charge-payers' money on "self-serving publicity" or "propaganda". We have a duty to provide the public with information about services and this is done on the most effective basis possible.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY THEOBALD,
Leader, East Sussex County Council,
Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane,
Lewes, East Sussex.
July 15.

Helping poor people

From the Director of the Family Welfare Association

Sir, The report *Households Below Average Income 1979-1989* (details: July 16), which shows that Britain's poor people have become poorer, does not surprise this organisation's grants committee. Last year we distributed nearly £700,000 of grants, despite having to turn away new applicants for weeks at a time because we are swamped with appeals from people in desperate need. Amongst those we have been able to help, for example, is a 73-year-old woman living in her own home and with both physical and mental health problems. She has £57.15 a week to live on, less £8.26 deducted each week from her income support to repay a social fund loan for a replacement cooker. She was faced with heating bills she could not meet.

This is just one example from our daily post bag. Applications pour in from social workers on behalf of their clients needing children's clothing, beds, bedding, cookers and other essentials.

Yes, there is such a thing as poverty in 1992 and there is indeed a widening gulf between rich and poor when such basic needs can be denied.

Yours faithfully,
LYNNE BERRY,
Director, FWA,
501-505 Kingsland Road, E8.
July 16.

Coping with hoods

From Mrs Frances Coventry

Sir, On attending her degree congregation at Birmingham University recently, my daughter was faced with the dilemma described by Mr Morgan in his letter today. She found that two large nappy pins securing hood to gown at the shoulders seemed the best solution to prevent her hood tightening dangerously round her neck and her blouse following the hood.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES COVENTRY,
Rosewarren, Old Church Road,
Mawman Smith,
Falmouth, Cornwall.
July 20.

OBITUARIES

PAOLO BORSELLINO

Judge Paolo Borsellino, state prosecutor in Palermo and a crusader against the Sicilian mafia, died aged 52 on July 19 together with five bodyguards when a massive bomb exploded under a parked car as he left the building in Palermo where his mother and sister live. He was born in Palermo on January 19, 1940.



AFTER the assassination less than two months ago of Judge Giovanni Falcone, for ten years head of the anti-mafia pool of magistrates in Palermo, Judge Borsellino had become the living symbol of Italy's efforts to vanquish Cosa Nostra. He and Falcone were close friends. Both had said on a number of occasions that they would probably be assassinated.

They were also both Sicilians and this may have spurred them to dedicate their lives to fighting the mafia. As children Borsellino and Falcone had played together in the parish football fields of Palermo. Among their playmates were also children who would grow up to become important mafia chiefs.

Paolo Borsellino was born into a middle class Palermo family. He studied law and in 1964, with Giovanni Falcone, passed the state examination to become a magistrate. He was sent first to Enna, then to Mazara del Vallo, and then to Montebello.

all in Sicily, before returning to Palermo in 1975. There he found himself once more next to Falcone in the public prosecutor's office. They worked under Rocco Chianfari, another Palermo magistrate and sworn enemy of the mafia who was killed in a car bombing in July 1983. The three launched the great offensive against the mafia which culminated in 1985 in the vast trial which convicted hundreds of mafiosi. But all three magistrates were killed by mafia bombs in Palermo.

The danger to magistrates was considered so great in 1984 that Borsellino, Falcone and Borsellino's family spent over a month in a high security prison on the island of Asinara while they prepared the mafia trial prosecution. It was there that one of Borsellino's daughters began suffering seriously from anorexia, attributed to her living surrounded by bodyguards and not being able to have a normal adolescence. In 1987 Paolo Borsellino became chief prosecutor in Marsala. He returned to Palermo to take the place of Giovanni Falcone in 1990, after the anti-mafia pool was controversially broken up, was transferred to Rome. It was particularly from that moment that Borsellino was seen as having taken from Falcone the standard of the anti-mafia offensive.

Borsellino and Falcone used to joke about death. One day Borsellino went to visit Falcone at home and said: "Look Giovanni, I think you should tell me the combination of your safe." "What for?" asked Falcone. "Otherwise how will we open it when they kill you?"

Paolo Borsellino was the prime candidate to become head of a newly created group of magistrates based in Rome, and charged with dealing exclusively with organised crime. The job had been assigned to Falcone before he was assassinated.

Paolo Borsellino leaves his wife, two daughters and a son who is studying law in order to become a magistrate.

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

Astor Piazzolla, Argentine tango composer and musician, died on July 5 aged 71. He was born in Mar del Plata, 250 miles south of Buenos Aires.

ASTOR Piazzolla was widely credited with having modernised the tango, the passionate dance music born in the brothels of Buenos Aires in the 1890s which became the musical signature tune of Argentina.

A child prodigy with the bandoneon — a large concertina used in tango — Piazzolla played with the best Argentine orchestras in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s before breaking away from traditional tango. His innovative compositions, which blended tango's most dramatic aspects with elements of jazz and classical music, won him wide recognition abroad.

At home he had legions of critics, who complained that he was twisting tango out of its folkloric context and trampling on its dance music tradition. His work, however, influenced a younger generation of tango musicians and eventually became popular in Argentina, especially in the 1970s and 1980s when some of his scores were used in films, television programmes and commercials.

Piazzolla was born into an Italian family that had settled

in the city of Mar del Plata in 1904. His father, a barber, moved the family to New York where, for 15 years, the Piazzollas lived in a small tenement apartment in lower Manhattan. When he was ten, his father gave him a second-hand bandoneon he had bought for \$18.

In New York, the young Piazzolla also took music and piano lessons from Bela Wilda, a Hungarian disciple of Sergei Rachmaninov, to whom he owed his lasting fondness for the classics. The Piazzolla family returned to Argentina in 1937 and Astor joined the famed tango orchestra of the late Anibal Troilo, a famous bandoneon player.

In the early 1950s he formed his own band. By that time he had also begun producing tangos in a new, revolutionary style that annoyed many orthodox fans of the Buenos Aires folk music.

Piazzolla became well known in European musical circles and was a regular visitor to Paris, where he lived for several years.

Besides tangos like "Adios Nonino," "Buenos Aires Hora Cero" and "Chiquilin de Bachin," Piazzolla wrote the music for Jeanne Moreau's film *La Lumière* and for Argentine director Fernando Solanas's *The Exile of Gardel*.

HEINZ GALINSKI

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Berlin since 1949, died on July 19 aged 79. He was born on November 28, 1912.

THE only member of his close family to survive the Nazi forced labour camps, Heinz Galinski was never for a moment tempted to leave Germany after the war. Instead he kept his German nationality and devoted himself to rebuilding the trust needed to re-establish a flourishing Jewish community in Berlin. Although he was a tireless campaigner against Nazi war criminals and worked hard to ensure that all their victims, regardless of race, received compensation, he believed in reconciliation between German and Jew. Always quick to draw attention to anti-semitism and racism, he did this to rouse national consciousness to potential dangers, arguing that a silent majority should never again allow extremists to take control of the country. In constantly reminding German public opinion that the war crimes should never be forgotten, he aimed at ensuring that they would never be repeated.

Born in the West Prussian town of Marienburg — today Malbork in Poland — his father was a businessman who was 80-per cent disabled from wounds he received fighting for Germany in the first world war. Galinski was sent to school in Berlin and later trained there as a salesman in the textile industry. Given the sacrifice of his father for Germany, he was astonished to witness the rapid rise of anti-semitism, the Jewish boycott, the Nuremberg race laws and *Kristallnacht*. His father was arrested and died shortly afterwards.

His mother and young wife were also imprisoned and failed to survive the war. He was deported to Auschwitz and later was put in the slave labour gangs working in the underground tunnels of the Buchenwald annex at Mittelbau Dora building V2 rockets. By the end of the war he had been moved to Bergen Belsen, where he was freed by British troops in April 1945.

He returned to Berlin to find that there were only 1,400 survivors from the pre-war Jewish community of 175,000. Unlike so many of his faith, he nevertheless believed that it would be possible for Jews to live freely once more in Germany and he immediately set about rebuilding the community. The first Jewish religious service was held in Berlin on May 5



only days after the end of the war as a defiant act of faith in the kind of reconciled future Galinski was sure was possible.

He concentrated from the very beginning on seeking compensation for the victims of the Nazis and was closely involved in drawing up the laws governing this which have remained in force ever since. Although predominantly concerned with the Jews, he insisted that all other racial and political victims were also covered by the legislation.

In April 1949, he was chosen as chairman of the Berlin community and under his leadership youth and social service facilities were set up which became a model for others in post war Germany. His maxim was "full integration and rejection of assimilation" and the Jewish community centre in Berlin, established in 1959, began to take on importance as a meeting place between German Jews and gentiles, influencing culture and political life throughout the country.

Galinski spoke out against the idea of an amnesty for Nazis and warned against a resurgence of the far right but at the same time he attacked the extreme left Red Army Faction for its assassinations. The faction was so incensed that in 1975 he became one of its targets, narrowly escaping death from a bomb. He also attacked German

lishing its integrity. In the same year he arranged a meeting with Erich Honecker, the East German leader, to press the case for opening archives dealing with the Nazi period to coincide with the 50th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*.

When unification occurred, Galinski welcomed it but prophesied, accurately, that this could lead to a resurgence of right-wing extremism and xenophobia. He accused West Germany of failing to face up fully to its Nazi past and warned that unless this happened there was always going to be a problem in coping with the history of the communist period in the East.

Despite his efforts, the Berlin Jewish community today is still only 9,000 strong, although during the Gulf war a number of Israelis actually sought refuge there and many former soviet Jews now want to settle there. His success in achieving reconciliation was best shown in 1990 when, for the first time in 60 years, the World Jewish Congress met in the city. Last year Israel established a consul general there.

Although he was proud of being Jewish, Galinski was no less proud of being German and in appearance and manners he could easily have been mistaken for a prosperous German businessman. His lifelong struggle to bring about reconciliation between his race and his nation stemmed from his profound belief that the two cultures were complementary and that German Jews were among the world's most gifted people.

Although a devout Jew, he was a Conservative one. He was autocratic and beat off challenges to his authority from both Orthodox and Liberal activists. No respecter of persons, he knowingly but unconcernedly made enemies after unification by demanding the return of prime-site, confiscated Jewish property in East Berlin. He was made an honorary citizen of Berlin in recognition of all he had done to rehabilitate the city.

His death marks the end of an era, for it is almost certain that his successor will come from a new generation of German Jews, born since the war and with no personal memory of the Holocaust. Married for a second time in 1947, he is survived by his wife Ruth, who chairs the Federation of Jewish Women in Germany, and their daughter. Although he was keen on music and football, his main hobby was growing cactuses.

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APPRECIATIONS

Christopher Ironside

MAY I make two small corrections to the obituary of Christopher Ironside (July 15)?

Christopher designed the decimal coin reverses. The obverse portrait of Her Majesty The Queen was designed by Arnold Machin.

The suit against the Royal Mint was not for "additional royalties" (in fact no royalty of any sort was paid) but in respect of a further, and solely commercial, use over and above the provision of a new coinage which, in Christopher's reasonable contention, had not been anticipated by the original design contract. Breaking from their traditional reticence, the Mint had adopted, at the time an entirely new policy towards the marketing of commemorative issues. Thus, it was Christopher's argument in the circumstances that a royalty should be paid for the commercial use of his designs.

Christopher was a founder member and the first president of the Society of Numismatic Artists and Designers.



He was very concerned to remedy the difficulties numismatic artists encounter, both as to quality of design and remuneration and also the problem of standards of training and continuity in this rather specialised field. He devoted much of his time and energy in recent years to these objectives.

Charming and elegant he certainly was, for he set considerable store by courtesy of manner and address and the way in which people behave towards one another.

Philip Nathan

Peter Greenham

AS A former student and as an old friend and colleague, may I add a word to your obituary of Peter Greenham (July 16)?

I would like to stress that behind the uncommon distinction of his painting lay a remarkable strength and facility in draughtsmanship, an activity which he saw as a direct path to his painting, never as a separate form of art.

His drawing shows how very much his artistic perception and intuition were backed by an acute intelligence. If his vigorous style came from his natural artistry, the authority behind it came from a formidable mind. This was never more sharply revealed than in his teaching, and in his fine explanatory drawings he would patiently resolve for his students the most daunting formal problems of the sort which many draughtsmen would prefer to avoid facing. Ever generous with revealing



his thought processes to his pupils, he would insist that the dynamic action of a subject, be it figure or landscape, must come first, and the form be built round that action. This is one reason why his drawings always rise above the limits of the merely academic in revealing the essential life of each subject, they achieve truly expressive status.

Colin Hayes

Maj-Gen 'Tom' Thomas

YOUR sensitive obituary of Major General "Tom" Thomas (July 9) took me back to the night before our final assault on Tunis in May 1943. Colonel Tom, as he then was known, was GSO1 to General Hawksworth and I a mere GSO3. I was on duty when at about 4 am, I was informed over the wireless that "Sunray" — ie General Alexander — would be with us within the hour.

I hurriedly woke the general and his GSO2, Lord Wynford, but omitted to do the same for the GSO1, Colonel Tom, to my knowledge,

had had no sleep for at least 48 hours, and must have been dead beat. I let him sleep.

Some time after Alex had left, Colonel Tom stormed into our caravan and for once was livid.

But very soon, his sense of fairness took over. The guns boomed, the sun rose, the Germans fled, and Colonel Tom was smiling again.

A year later, we were again on the alert, the night before the final thrust on Cassino. Colonel Tom was very much awake and, exhausted as his GSO2 and his GSO3 were, his example and his constant cheerfulness kept us all determined not to let him down.

G. Gredlich

HARRISON STORMS

Harrison Allen Storms Jr, a leading American aerospace designer who was responsible for the Mustang fighter in the second world war and played a crucial role in the Apollo project to put a man on the moon, died at his home in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on July 11 aged 76. He was born on July 15, 1915, in Chicago.

IF HARRISON Storms had not been colour blind, it might have had a profound effect on the course of the second world war. The affliction kept him out of military service and tied to his drawing board at North American Aviation Inc: a board from which sprang the B-25 bomber and the P-51 Mustang — arguably the most dominant fighter on the allied side.

Storms, popularly known as "Stormy," had joined North American in 1941 after gaining the degree of aeronautical engineer at the California Institute of Technology. His advance through the corporate ranks was rapid as he worked on such post-war projects as the F-86 Sabre jet which saw extensive service in Korea, and the F-100 Super Sabre which

became the world's first supersonic fighter. He was also responsible for the X-15 experimental research aircraft, using a rocket motor to become the first manned vehicle to fly outside the earth's atmosphere.

For Storms, there were always barriers to conquer; notably the sound barrier and the heat barrier limiting high speed flight. "In the final analysis," he once said, "we must rely on man's ingenuity." It did not always work: the B-70, a six-engine bomber and potential passenger plane designed to fly at three times the speed of sound, was one of his few failures. By 1957 Storms had become North American's vice-president and chief engineer, and in 1960 he took over the company's space and information systems division. It was fortuitous timing. Months later the Soviets surprised the world when Yuri Gagarin made the first manned orbit of the earth, and Storms had the foresight to assemble a team of scientists and engineers to cope with the American response in advance.

"We took a calculated gamble," he said later. "We went out and hired the best technical force available. We paid people salaries for jobs we didn't even have yet."

The gamble paid off when President Kennedy announced his bid for the moon and NASA invited 16 aerospace companies to submit their proposals. Storms's readiness brought North American the prime contract, worth \$400 million, to design the Apollo command module and service module, and a further contract for \$140 million to build the second stage of the Saturn rocket. Project Apollo became the largest scientific and technological undertaking the world had ever seen and Storms presided over the pivotal North American role in the enterprise until Apollo 11 finally beat the Russians to the moon on July 20, 1969. He also brought his company contracts worth over a billion dollars.

By the time he retired in 1970 Storms had participated in the design and engineering of 48 aircraft and space vehicles. The last of his many awards came earlier this year, when he received the International von Karman Wings Award for Lifetime Achievement, given by the Aerospace Historical Committee of the California Museum of Science and Industry. Harrison Storms leaves his widow, Phyllis, two sons and a daughter.

Architecture

Sisters select a steel, serpentine and streamlined home

By Marcus Binney
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

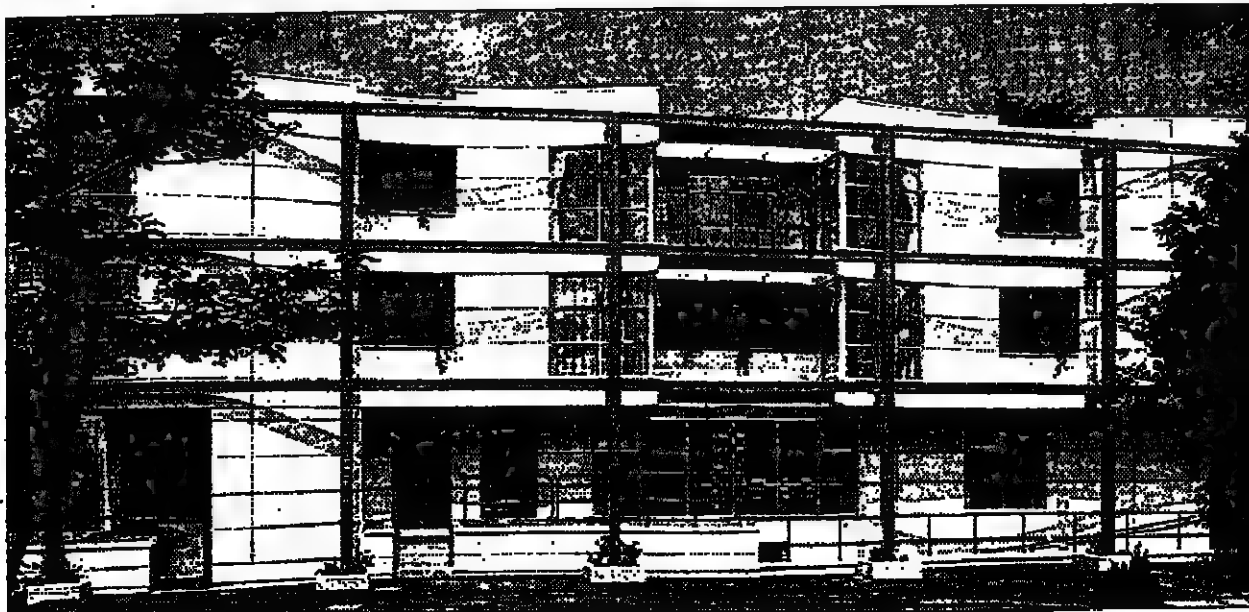
THE simple streamlined forms of early modernism are back in fashion. An elegant example is a new extension to St Mary's Home in the Staffordshire town of Stone.

Sister Conleth, the administrator, identified a need for rooms where families could leave elderly, infirm relatives when they went on holiday. "Our aim is to care for the carers," she says. "We have created six respite rooms for which we charge £220 a week for full board with nursing care."

"I had seen a little of this in America and thought it a wonderful way of helping people keep parents and aunts at home." The rooms are also available for convalescents.

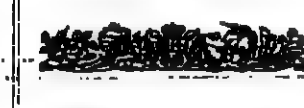
The extension has been designed by Pickavance Architects, of Stafford, who had designed an earlier extension to the Victorian convent. Ricky Hui, the project architect, explains: "The sisters wanted a bright airy building that would raise people's spirits." The new front is designed on a shallow serpentine plan. It was intended to be faced in steel cladding. Budget constraints made it necessary to build in conventional blockwork, and though not quite the lightweight, high tech structure Mr Hui intended, the effect is very good.

The cost of the new building was £400,000, towards which the sisters need to raise a further £170,000.



St Mary's Home with its serpentine wall hung on bold steel girders

July 21 ON THIS DAY 1902



The fall of the Campanile in Venice — over 300ft high — on July 14, 1902 struck a chord in the hearts and minds of people far away from that city: the only casualty was said to be the resident cat who had gone back to take a nap at its feeding bowl. By 1912 the Campanile had been rebuilt.

THE FALL OF THE CAMPANILE

Forty thousand pounds have been already subscribed towards the rebuilding of the Campanile, which work will be commenced as soon as it has been decided whether it is safe to rebuild it. From the artistic point of view it has been determined, one may almost say, by acclamation that the piazza and the whole panorama of Venice requires the reconstruction of the tower. Those who can recall the view of Venice from the public gardens or, better still, that from the Lido, when the sinking sun gives a golden background to the clear cut form of Venice and its towers will feel how absolutely necessary the Campanile was to the harmony of the whole. It is the view of Rome from the Pincio without St Peter's, that of London from Greenwich Hill without St Paul's.

The Venetian fishermen of the Adriatic are particularly affected by the loss. One described his sensations to me on returning on Tuesday morning after his two days' absence: "It was like coming home," he said: "to find one's house in ruins," and, turning aside, he muttered a prayer to "Maria Vergino".

A halo of superstition is rapidly accumulating round the whole event, and the people, whose respect for images is very great, are enormously impressed by the fact that the beautiful golden angel from the summit of the tower fell in the very porch of the

church. The angel flew home," they say, and when, by the order of the Patriarch, it was being reverently deposited in St Mark's, they believe a light shone from its wings.

There is another story, which is being more universally believed, as it has to some extent the sanction of the Church for its credence. There is in St Mark's a figure of the Madonna, which stands on the left as you enter from the Piazza. This figure has long been held to possess miraculous power. When the Campanile fell the angel is said to have flown to warn the Madonna, who straightaway prevented the destruction of the church.

Whilst the superstitious are busy with such matters in the church much practical work is being done outside. The best advice from Rome and other centres of art and archaeology is here and the pieces of Sansovino's Loggia are being carefully saved with the view of reconstruction. Signor Boni, the curator of the Roman Forum, has arrived and is rendering invaluable assistance. Already the gates of the Loggia have been recovered and found to be but slightly injured. They were, perhaps, the most beautiful object in the whole construction. Whether Sansovino's four bronze statues will be found whole it is difficult to say.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, There must be tens of thousands of Englishmen who will feel almost as keenly as the Venetians themselves, the deepest sorrow at this great calamity. The loss is not merely local, the whole world is poorer by such a grievous catastrophe. I would suggest that one or other of our learned societies should at once organise an appeal to English travellers and artists, so that this country may take its share of the expense of at once rebuilding this unique and time-honoured monument.

Your obedient servant
HBO

Euro Disney changes its prices to lure customers

BY LIN JENNINGS

ATTENDANCES below expected levels and hints from British tour operators that they would drop the park from their programmes have prompted Euro Disney to restructure its prices. The new rates will be announced tomorrow.

Some British tour operators have reduced capacity after the much-heralded fairy-tale opening materialised only in the publicity and not in the number of visitors. One Liverpool-based travel company specialising in trips to Euro Disney has ceased trading, claiming that in the

highly competitive travel trade people cannot afford to take a second short break to Europe. Mersey Mouse Tours was founded when economic forecasts were bright, but Terry Hughes, the owner, claims that the recession has strangled business and with it the attraction of Mickey.

Euro Disney has already offered discounts in what should be their peak period for some hotels and reduced the cost of some food. A spokesman described the reductions as "alterations to stimulate awareness". She added that adjustments in catering arrangements had been made because visitors were opting for fast food rather than the traditional European four-course lunch.

Figures for the first seven weeks showed daily attendance averaging just over 30,000. Gates of that level are needed every day if the park is to meet its first-year target of 11 million visitors. City analysts believe that the company has underestimated seriously the likely drop off during the winter months.

"They have expressed surprise at what some commentators see as the number of visitors over the winter months. It is such an obvious outdoor attraction, and while they have begun to cover more of the queuing areas it will not be very pleasant in the cold and wet," said one.

The theme park, 18 miles from Paris, has suffered teething problems since it opened. Disputes by French farmers and then lorry drivers dampened initial interest. With 35,000 inside queues are long, fuelling doubts that it could handle with comfort the 50,000 a day it needs in the summer.

It also has to overcome the cultural difficulties of presenting something that seems incongruous in Europe. There have also been staffing problems. With most earnings about 15 per cent of the French minimum wage, many employees have not been of the right calibre, others have left unable to tolerate the bright, breezy corporate image required, and few can afford the accommodation available locally.

Air strike on Iraq considered

FROM JAMES BOWEN IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN, France and the United States are considering mounting an air strike on Iraq to punish Baghdad for its increasing defiance of the United Nations by preventing a team of weapons inspectors from searching its agriculture ministry, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources said the most likely target would be a building already scheduled for destruction by the UN special commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. But they said there was no fixed time frame for an attack.

Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN weapons inspector, was due to brief the UN Security Council yesterday on his return from three days of talks in Baghdad. Council members were expected to issue a statement condemning Iraq's refusal to co-operate with the UN team, hoping to search for secret documents about Iraq's forbidden ballistic missile programme.

Diplomats said the council would reject Iraq's offer to allow inspectors from neutral countries into the ministry.

Thousands jeer, page 9



Palermo battlefield: police and firemen check damaged vehicles yesterday in the Sicilian capital after a car bomb on Sunday killed an anti-Mafia judge and five bodyguards

Bosnians flee as ceasefire collapses

Continued from page 1

achieved their military objectives, especially in the north. The Bosnian fighting has caused hundreds of thousands of people to flee and yesterday UN sources said they were extremely concerned about the fate of 3,500 Muslims who have been "ethnically cleansed" or expelled from the northwestern town border town of Bosanski Novi. For the past few days they have been shuttled around in 60 buses and 150 cars looking for an escape route.

On the Bosnian side of the frontier Serbs have been preventing their flight and escape routes across the border have been blocked because it is controlled by the police of Croatia's breakaway Serb republic of Krajina, now a UN "protected area".

Mostly men, the refugees flooded across from northern Bosnia last week but they have now been taken in ferries to the southern Croatian

port of Split. Their families have either been put in camps in Croatia or have gone to Italy or Austria.

Sitting in sweltering trains near Zagreb last week, the demoralised mass most of whom were Muslims, said their homes had been destroyed, that the war had been lost and that they did not want to return.

Germany yesterday reopened its borders to Bosnian refugees while Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, strongly criticised other EC countries for not doing more to help avert human tragedy on a vast scale. Ian Murray writes from Bonn.

The chancellor called for "a European act of humanity" in the face of the mass exodus from Bosnia in what he described as the "largest refugee catastrophe since the end of the second world war".

EC demand, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Maxwell judgment

Continued from page 1

fails to do so. Mr Maxwell has said in the past that he does not have substantial assets. Only a fortnight ago, when successfully applying for an interim High Court judgment to prevent his creditors bringing civil proceedings against him, he said he was unable to meet a tax demand.

The judge said no defence had ever been served and Mr Maxwell had not sworn any evidence in opposition to the application for summary judgment.

However, it had been made clear in correspondence that Mr Maxwell's decision not to appear or be represented was not to be understood as meaning that he submitted to judgment. Mr Maxwell said in a statement after the hearing that, if he had had the resources, he would have "strenuously denied" all allegations of breach of duty made against him.

The liquidators' claims against Mr Maxwell related almost entirely to alleged

breaches of his fiduciary duty during the time he was a director of BIM, the judge said he had decided to give final judgment against Mr Maxwell for him to account to the liquidators and for payment of any sums found due on the taking of the account.

The judge also made final orders on a number of detailed transactions on the basis that he was satisfied there was no defence to the liquidators' claim and ordered interim payments to be made. These totalled some £384 million, plus \$42.8 million. A further amount of compensation has yet to be assessed.

A similar application by the liquidators for summary judgment against Mr Maxwell's brother Ian is expected to be heard later this week.

Defendants in fraud or other civil proceedings should not be able to "poll" their right to silence if there is no risk that the information will be used against them in criminal proceedings, the House of Lords held yesterday.

Major gives Mellor full public backing

Continued from page 1

doubt of his determination to keep Mr Mellor in office. He was reported to have made clear in the strongest terms that he regarded Mr Mellor's personal life as a private matter and that he was attending the reception to support a man for whom he had the highest regard. "His jaw was set," one witness said. Yesterday it was also disclosed that Mr Major had telephoned Mrs Mellor.

The strength of Mr Major's resolve to prevent a minister who is a personal friend being hounded from office is felt by ministers and MPs to be the strongest reason why Mr Mellor should manage to stay on. Politicians in other parties have also been supportive.

After reports were published of his association with Antonia de Sanctis, an out-of-work actress, Mr Mellor admitted on Sunday night that he and his wife Judith

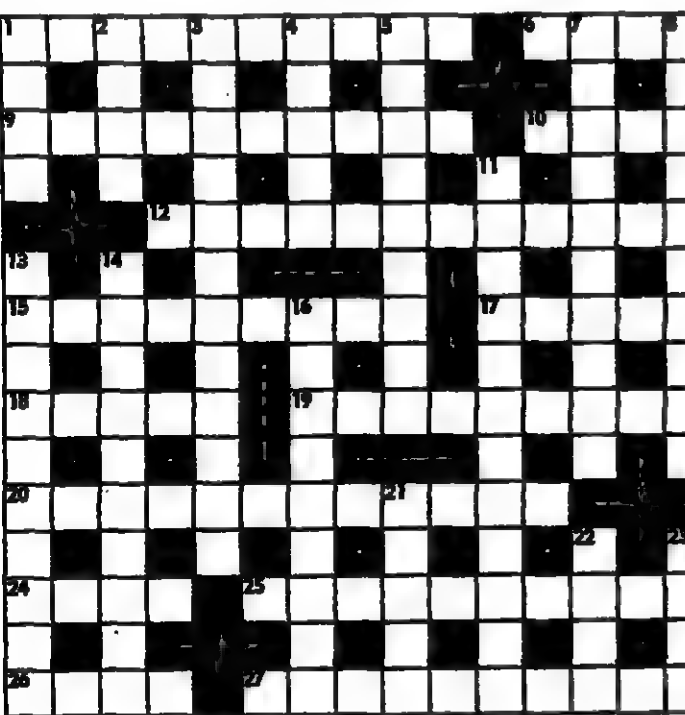
were having marriage difficulties. He appealed them, too, to be allowed to try to sort them out in private.

Mr Mellor will have to assess a report from Sir David Calcutt QC on press regulation and put it before the cabinet, which will decide if legislation is required. The prime minister discussed Mr Mellor's position yesterday with Sir Norman Fowler, Conservative party chairman, and other close colleagues.

Later Downing Street sources stressed that there was no question of moving Mr Mellor from his present post, and that his responsibilities were unaltered. It was said that Mr Major took the firm view that what had happened had nothing to do with policy, nothing to do with the way Mr Mellor was able to conduct his business and was entirely a personal matter.

Meeting called, page 2
Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,976



ACROSS

- 1 With good intentions, keep out of the old capital (3,3,4).
- 6 Green thumb (4).
- 9 Tablecloth is square (5-5).
- 10 Top one in a thousand? On the contrary (4).
- 12 Saint's stone covered up by those in authority, alas (5,3,4).
- 15 Outrageously sinful, he's become altruistic (9).
- 17 Affair most of us relish initially (5).
- 18 Make smart skirt worn by pages (5).
- 19 Composer (Greek) is seen in a green coat (9).
- 20 Demand I acquire vivid style of writing (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,975

LILAC CONTENTED
SILVER ANA NAR
INSTANTANEOUS
TERRIBLE GESS
MORAL ADDRESS
OCEANIC
TIPSTER BOTTLE
VIOLENT ENGAGE
APOLLOLOGIST
TUPPIER
TWIST PATRARCH
CONCOURSE GHOST

DOWN

- 2 Some loathsome bad language (4).
- 3 Climbing plant, colourful but sour (10).
- 4 Active agent guarding the king (4).
- 7 Regardless of circumstances, deathless can't afford to fail thus (2,3,5).
- 8 Ardent and angry clowns used to answer my summons (5,5).
- 11 I heal a bitter split, and restore a reputation (12).
- 13 Favourable with a new leader? That's doubtful (10).
- 14 Swinger responsible for organising local riots (10).
- 16 A change of order in translation (9).
- 21 18 about to be put in prison (5).
- 22 A child could, they say... (4).
- 23 ... talk about Panama, for example (4).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- JORIS**
a. A Dickensian shop-keeper
b. The Afghan flag
c. A purposeless messenger
- CAPTAIN FLINT**
a. A Regency money-lender
b. The keyhole of an arch
c. An avian's parrot
- BEN BATTLE**
a. A domestic quarrel in Scotland
b. A comic-strip hero
c. A paranoiac Black Watch soldier
- GIBBELINGS**
a. Rivals of the Gueules
b. The moon between half and full
c. Cannibals from the edge of the world

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH
For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C London (within N & S Circle) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads M2-M4 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-east England 742
North-west England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 9.04 pm to 5.10 am
Bristol 9.14 pm to 5.20 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.50 am
Manchester 9.22 pm to 5.09 am
Perthshire 9.30 pm to 5.38 am

Sun rises: 5.09 am Sun sets: 9.04 pm
Moon sets: 12.28 pm Moon rises: 11.00 pm

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud, f. for: r. sun, s. sun

Belfast	18	64	Guernsey	23	73
Birmingham	18	64	Inverness	18	64
Blackpool	20	68	Jersey	25	77
Bristol	16	61	London	23	73
Cardiff	15	59	Manchester	18	64
Edinburgh	15	59	Newcastle	21	70
Glasgow	17	63	Perthshire	15	59

Today's pollen count forecast is MODERATE SELDANE
A major advance in hayfever treatment.

WEATHER

A fresher, showery day over much of England and Wales with some bright spells. Some showers will be heavy, but these should die out this afternoon. East Anglia and southeast England will see rain, heavy at times, with brighter spells likely later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will stay mainly dry with sunny spells. Outlook: dry with sunny spells over England and Wales, but becoming cloudy over western Scotland, with rain on Thursday.

FORECAST

MIDDAY: (with rain, drizzle, fog, mist, snow, hail, sleet, rain, sun, etc.)

	C	F		C	F
Aberdeen	27	81	Malaga	34	93
Albacor	28	82	Malta	35	95
Alexandria	29	84	Marseilles	36	97
Algiers	29	84	Medan	37	99
Amman	30	86	Melbourne	38	100
Ankara	31	88	Mexico City	39	102
Antwerp	32	90	Moscow	40	104
Athens	33	91	Mumbai	41	106
Auckland	34	93	Nairobi	42	108
Bahia	35	95	Naples	43	110
Baku	36	97	Nassau	44	111
Batavia	37	99	Nice	45	113
Bombay	38	100	Norfolk	46	115
Buenos Aires	39	102	Osaka	47	117
Burgas	40	104	Peking	48	118
Calcutta	41	106	Perth	49	120
Cairo	42	108	Prague	50	122
Canton	43	110	Rangoon	51	124
Cebu	44	111	Rangoon	52	126
Colon	45	113	Rangoon	53	128
Dacca	46	115	Rangoon	54	130
Damascus	47	117	Rangoon	55	132
Dar es Salaam	48	119	Rangoon	56	134
Delhi	49	120	Rangoon	57	136
Dhaka	50	122	Rangoon	58	138
Dubai	51	124	Rangoon	59	140
Edinburgh	52	126	Rangoon	60	142
Frankfurt	53	127	Rangoon	61	144
Glasgow	54	129	Rangoon	62	146
Hankow	55	131	Rangoon	63	148
Hong Kong	56	133	Rangoon	64	150
Kobe	57	135	Rangoon	65	152
London	58	136	Rangoon	66	154
Lyons	59	138	Rangoon	67	156
Manila	60	140	Rangoon	68	158
Medan	61	142	Rangoon	69	160
Melbourne	62	144	Rangoon	70	162
Mexico City	63	146	Rangoon	71	164
Moscow	64	148	Rangoon	72	166
Mumbai	65	150	Rangoon	73	168
Nairobi	66	152	Rangoon	74	170
Naples	67	155	Rangoon	75	172
Nassau	68	158	Rangoon	76	174
Nice	69	160	Rangoon	77	176
Norfolk	70	162	Rangoon	78	178
Osaka	71	164	Rangoon	79	180
Peking	72	166	Rangoon	80	182
Perth	73	169	Rangoon	81	184
Prague	74	171	Rangoon	82	186
Rangoon	75	173	Rangoon	83	188
Rangoon	76	175	Rangoon	84	190
Rangoon	77	177	Rangoon	85	192
Rangoon	78	179	Rangoon	86	194
Rangoon	79	181	Rangoon	87	196
Rangoon	80	183	Rangoon	88	198
Rangoon	81	185	Rangoon	89	200
Rangoon	82	187	Rangoon	90	202
Rangoon	83	189	Rangoon	91	204
Rangoon	84	191	Rangoon	92	206
Rangoon	85	193	Rangoon	93	208
Rangoon	86	195	Rangoon	94	210
Rangoon	87	197	Rangoon	95	212
Rangoon	88	199	Rangoon	96	214
Rangoon	89	201	Rangoon	97	216
Rangoon	90	203	Rangoon	98	218
Rangoon	91	205	Rangoon	99	220
Rangoon	92	207	Rangoon	100	222

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.66	3.51
Austria S	1.65	2.14
Belgium F	61.40	57.00
Canada S	2.42	2.28
Denmark D	10.75	10.75
Finland Mk	8.31	7.71
France F	10.00	10.00
Germany Dm	2.37	2.77
Greece Dr	384.00	389.00
India Rs	25.00	25.00
Italy Lira	2,000.00	2,110.00
Japan Yen	160.00	160.00
Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.13
Norway Kr	4.75	4.75
Portugal Esc	200.00	225.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.36
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
Turkey Lira	1,400.00	1,300.00
USA S	1.00	1.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	0.05	0.05

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

The figures to this table yesterday were incorrect; we regret the error.

WEATHER

A fresher, showery day over much of England and Wales with some bright spells. Some showers will be heavy, but these should die out this afternoon. East Anglia and southeast England will see rain, heavy at times, with brighter spells likely later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will stay mainly dry with sunny spells. Outlook: dry with sunny spells over England and Wales, but becoming cloudy over western Scotland, with rain on Thursday.

FORECAST

city	Sun	Rain	Max	Wind
Aberdeen	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Albacor	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Alexandria	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Algiers	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Amman	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Ankara	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Antwerp	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Athens	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Auckland	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Bahia	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Baku	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Batavia	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Bombay	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Buenos Aires	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Burgas	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Calcutta	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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Colon	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Dacca	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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Delhi	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Dhaka	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Dubai	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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Kobe	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
London	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Lyons	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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Osaka	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
Paris	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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Perth	0.3	0.6	52	72 bright
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BY MATTHEW BOND

The biggest requirement for space is at the environment department, which said it

At WPP, Martin Sorrell, chief executive, has ruled out merging two of the group's main subsidiaries, J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy and Mather, as a cost-cutting measure.

Stonehill Holdings, a property and furniture group, has reduced its pre-tax loss for the year to end-March from £1.13 million to £387,000. The company has no distributable reserves and is unable to pay its preference or ordinary dividend.

Siemens, the German electronics group, announced net consolidated profits of DM1.311 billion for the nine months of the financial year to end-September, up 8 per cent on last time.

The International Petroleum Exchange remained closed until after midday after technical problems prevented the flow of price information.

Until the final decisions are taken, plans to secure the long-term future of the heavily indebted project are likely to advance slowly. Mr. Adamowski said there had been serious declarations of interest from "half a dozen" separate sources. Mr. Hamilton confirmed that "one or two" of these declarations came from consortia rather than individual companies. The administrators said a consortium approach made good sense, enabling a company with property expertise in combination with a company with financial expertise to pool skills and exploit the valuable tax credits and finance the project's future development. More than \$200 million of tax relief are potentially available.

Mr Adamson said he was puzzled by the government's tough approach to the Jubilee. *Line funding*, given that the net value now of the original agreed contribution was only £170 million — 10 per cent of the total cost. "It does seem to us the collapse of Q&Y is being used as an excuse."

But Mr Adamson was optimistic the government would give serious consideration to the administrators' offer of the freehold of one of the smaller Canary Wharf buildings in lieu of the £100 million contribution required by the original agreement.



BY GEORGE SIVELL

John Menzies also announced that it was selling its Hamrick's Bookshop to a management team headed by Vincent Campbell, the former managing director of Harchands, and backed by *Phil drew Ventures*. Menzies says it will receive \$5.8 million for Hamrick's retail arm, which it reckons is \$0.5 million more than the value of the assets. Hamrick's Wholesale is unaffected by the move.

Memries has also set aside an extraordinary £7 million to cover trading losses and the expected loss on disposal from

By COLIN CAMPBELL

profit performance are maximised. The economic picture might yet prove to be very difficult, he said.

The shares were 9p easier at 114p.

BY DEREK HARRIS

BCE has been in demand for its skills in helping old industrial areas around

extensive redundancies have been taking consultative advice from BCE.

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

Marine made gains of \$4.3 million on the sale of parts of this property in the second quarter. The bank is trying to sell its portfolio but the property market in New York

Lloyds repays interest

refunds to most of them. The figures do not include those larger business customers who had noticed the error before Lloyds' publicly admitted it and made their own claims.

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

believed companies as a whole were not spending enough on

the profile of training but when it comes to spending, the verdict from industry is that Britain is skimping on skills."

MISCELLANEOUS

**PLEASE REPLY TO BOX
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Please Reply to Box No 9493

0472 371286

**PLEASE REPLY TO BOX NO 9403
C/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPER**

LAKE/CUMBERLAND Market town - centre. A rare chance to purchase along established servicing/retailing premises. Agency franchise - close to proposed retirement - excellent freehold premises. Suit R.L.C.B./S.V.A. Members.

071-481 1982

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Propping up the forgotten dollar

London was too pre-occupied with domestic troubles yesterday to pay much attention to the dollar's dangerous slide against the mark, until central bank intervention stemmed it. That lack of interest in the dollar applies equally to the past fortnight and to most big centres. With a gap in short-term money rates of about 6 per cent and little cheer in the American economy, the dollar was hardly going to prosper. Nicholas Brady, the American Treasury secretary, seemed equally phlegmatic. The domestic economy needed low interest rates whatever the consequences and the side-effect of a cheap dollar fuelling export-led recovery was doubly attractive, even if the effect has become patchy.

This apparently relaxed background made intervention, which was decisive and determined, spectacularly successful in markets that were short of dollars and had little inkling what was about to hit them. There is a price for everything and when the dollar goes into free-fall, as it has been threatening to do ever since the Bundesbank tightened its domestic stance last week, central bankers rightly fear the resulting instability. The events of October 1987 could easily be repeated in some other confidence-sapping guise. Politically, the Germans had a moral obligation not to upset the appetiser, as was made plain at the Munich summit and thereafter, while George Bush must pay more attention to the symbolic element of the dollar's value in the run-up to a potentially tight presidential election. The intervention has been strikingly successful but the dollar has rebounded to the top end of a trading range.

The eagerness of the Bank of England, the Bank of Italy and others to join the fun by selling marks is a reminder that the crisis and the intervention were really more about the mark than the dollar. By midday, sterling had dropped briefly to its lowest exchange rate against the German currency since ERM entry, despite almost daily attempts by the prime minister or the Chancellor to make the pound walk tall. These increasingly strident pep-talks reflect fears over the tide of economic news in Britain, which offers little else to support the currency.

Crowded out

Treasury ministers have acted fast to undo an embarrassing consequence of their eagerness to raise money to fund an annual public sector borrowing requirement that seems likely to be bigger with every month the recovery is delayed. The trouble is that their highly successful efforts to attract more money into National Savings, and therefore minimise crowding out of industry through the capital markets, were destined to make the recession longer and the borrowing requirement still higher.

National Savings have boomed in the first six months, while net inflows into building societies have sunk from £4.5 billion to about £500 million. Second-tier building societies in particular, could not compete with the aggressively pitched First Option Bond, which offered more than 8 per cent net for a year on the big deposits beloved by the societies. This money is mobile, and some societies found money draining fast. That is a very different proposition from simply taking a smaller share of new savings, forcing the Cheltenham & Gloucester to start a quick response by societies to raise rates by half a point to protect their balance sheets. Higher mortgage rates would not necessarily bring higher bank base rates, but would push any recovery in housing markets and consumer confidence further into the future — and therefore ensure that the government will have to raise yet more to shore up public finances. Yesterday's half point cut in the returns on the Option Bond, which may stop the rot, shows the Treasury has realised it cannot squeeze the societies too hard.

Ross Tieman and
Wolfgang Münchau
assess why more
than language
separates Europe's
jobless youngsters

Indolent and deeply tanned, the youth of Europe will throng the beaches and bars of the Mediterranean this summer, distinguishable only by their mother tongues. When autumn blows in, the Germans will disappear as a stroke. Young Italians, Spaniards, Frenchmen and Britons, on the other hand, may linger on, to be driven home only by rain squalls and poverty.

The transition from classroom to the world of work is badly handled in most countries of the European Community. People under the age of 25 account for 34 per cent of Europe's jobless. Yet the patterns of unemployment vary hugely from country to country, and by sex.

Analysis of jobless data for the 12 EC states published by Eurostat confirms great variations in Europe's experience of unemployment. Britain alone accounted for almost half the rise in unemployment in EC countries in the year to April. But some others have endured much higher unemployment levels, for much longer. As was the case ten years ago, unemployment is returning to the political agenda all over Europe.

Unemployment data are not yet harmonised across Europe, making statistical comparisons difficult. The Eurostat data are based on calculation by the International Labour Organisation, which tries to iron out the notorious national statistical vagaries, such as the British government's insistence on counting as unemployed only those claiming benefit.

Whatever the merits of the statistics, some features are clear. Overall patterns of unemployment in Europe's largest countries have varied widely in the past decade. Britain's unemployment is very high by European standards, especially youth unemployment. France and Italy have recorded high and stable levels of unemployment for almost ten years.

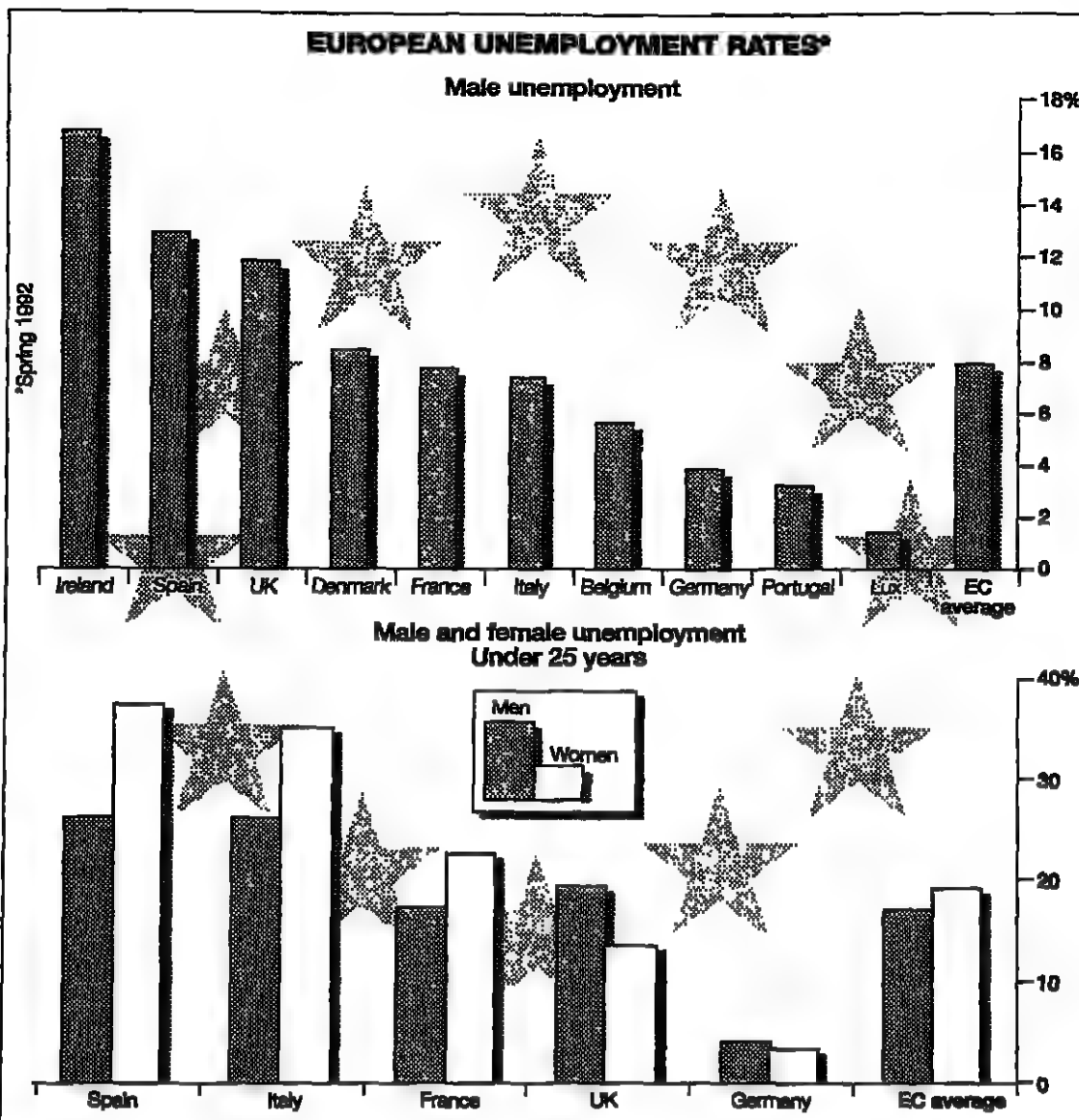
Strong economic growth has helped Spain steadily trim some of the highest jobless levels in Europe. Britain's high rates of unemployment of the early 1980s were much reduced by 1990, only to soar again thereafter as the recession took hold.

Germany, little by little, pared unemployment to just 4.5 per cent last year. Remuneration has, however, presented the enlarged Germany with a huge unemployment problem in its eastern regions. The new Germany, too, has a jobless problem, which the statistics, so far at least, conveniently ignore, as all data relate to western Germany.

In the United Kingdom, men and women have very different experiences of unemployment. A far higher

Training and attitude divide the Community's unemployed youth

EUROPEAN VIEW



proportion of women are economically active in Britain than elsewhere in the Community, but many do not register for benefit if they lose their jobs. Even by the ILO measure, the jobless rate among women is shown to be lower. The jobless rate among women here is further depressed by the high proportion of part-time jobs — more than a fifth of the total — in the British economy. Many of those jobs are filled by women who in other countries might register for full-time work. Employment department figures also show that full-time jobs are almost four times more likely to have been lost in the recession than part-time jobs.

The tradition of the male as breadwinner remains strong throughout Europe, however, even though the extent to which women share the burden varies. Britain has by far the largest number of part-time jobs with more than 5.6 million and these mostly occupied by women. In Italy, many women count as unemployed even if they have a perfectly respectable "black market" job. For these reasons we have chosen "male unemployment" as our base indicator, which ensures at least a minimum degree of comparability of the

data. As the top chart shows, Britain does not emerge well. Indeed, after the recession-induced surge of job losses, the rate of male unemployment in Britain is now the third worst in Europe, and little better than that in Spain. Only Ireland, which has a long tradition of exporting labour, has a significantly worse rate. The data are an indictment of the state of the British economy, far more damning than other economic indicators would suggest.

Perhaps it may be only a spurious correlation, but it is true that two of the countries with the highest unemployment, Ireland and Britain, have no statutory minimum wage. Yet, it may be rash to draw the conclusion that unemployment would fall under a minimum wage regime. There is certainly evidence that a minimum wage damages the employment prospects of young people, although the general phobias about the minimum wage are exaggerated.

The starkest conclusion from the statistics is that young people in general tend to fare badly. Every country in Europe has higher levels, sometimes hugely higher levels, of

unemployment among young people — except for Germany. In April, western Germany's jobless rate among young women was just 3.5 per cent. Among young men, it was 4 per cent while for the population as a whole, the rate was 4.5 per cent. There are a number of reasons behind the low rate of youth unemployment in Germany: the apprenticeship system; compulsory schooling until the age of 18; national service, which keeps young men for at least 15 months out of the labour market; and also the exceptionally low birth rates during the 1970s.

Spain and Italy stand at the other extreme. In both countries, more than one young woman in three, and one young man in four, was without work. Young people were several times more likely to be out of work than older members of the workforce.

Young men and women fared only a little better in France than in the southern countries. And in Britain, 19.4 per cent of young men were without work, almost one young worker in five. Unusually though, Britain displayed a lower level of unemployment among young women than among young men. Even so, 13.6 per cent of young women

workers in Britain had no job in April, against an average ILO rate of 11.9 per cent for the whole workforce.

Cultural factors play a part. Some Spanish parents may prefer their daughters not to work. Some youngsters do not want to work. They may register as unemployed simply to become entitled to state benefits. In April, some youngsters may have just finished working in winter holiday resorts and be biding their time pending the start of the summer season. The young, after all, are often more mobile, and more inclined to take temporary jobs, than older people with family responsibilities.

Most young people ultimately settle to a job, but years of trauma are wasteful to the economy. They can also savagely deplete the pockets of parents, and add to their grey hairs. A study by Professor John Bynner of City University sheds some light on the hugely different experience of German and British youngsters. Professor Bynner paired 160 youngsters aged 16 to 19 in Germany with peers in Liverpool and Swindon.

German school-leavers saw themselves as students or apprentices, and started work at least two years later than the Britons. But "young English school leavers saw themselves as workers. Youth training was considered a poor alternative to a proper job and little value was placed on vocational qualifications".

There was criticism of the German system, too, for failing to provide a range of occupational experiences and to accommodate the least able. The unique feature of the German system is the dual-track approach, whereby youngsters spend half their three-year apprenticeships at a specialist school. To qualify, they need to pass practical and theoretical exams. Without qualifications, there are no job prospects.

The relative lack of employment regulation in Britain enables the economy to adjust manpower quickly in response to shifts in demand. But an inadequate commitment to training has clearly hampered product quality in the past. Introduction of quality certification, requiring companies to use qualified staff, has begun to address some of these failings.

This should benefit younger workers. But Professor Bynner found Liverpool youngsters could double their income by abandoning training midway to take a job, and often did. Their German peers, denied that opportunity, "were more satisfied with their lives, and had a more developed sense of citizenship".

Structured, high quality training at an affordable cost to the employer is the single most important factor determining the relative level of youth unemployment and will also have, in the longer term, a strong impact on overall unemployment. For the time being, though, the only definite conclusion from the data is that youth unemployment is a European-wide problem that is not being addressed successfully. There are only few — too few — exceptions.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wolverhampton wonderers

WOLVERHAMPTON council has moved quickly to allay the fears of Midlands council workers wondering about their pensions after a report in *The Birmingham Post* raising the spectre of a Maxwell-style pensions scandal. The report alleged the West Midlands Municipal Authorities pension fund had put millions of pounds in jeopardy by investing in the Vancouver Stock Exchange, long a byword for risky dealing. Brian Bailey, Wolverhampton's finance director, confirmed the fund has an interest in Norfolk Ventures, whose shares are suspended on the VSE, but says it is "tiny in the context of our £2 billion fund". The amount is understood to be about £50,000. Bailey says the fund has about 50 investments in the VSE but they are "all part of a very small exposure to high-risk, high-return investments, the vast majority of our assets being in traditional stocks and gilts". In the 1980s, the VSE was notorious for shady deals, dubbed "the longest standing joke in North America" by *Forbes* magazine. Bailey says it has since cleaned up its act. "If we lost all our Canadian investments it would have a negligible effect on our overall funds".

Up a scale

AFTER more than a century in Lincoln's Inn Fields, City lawyers Frere Cholmeley are moving this September to the old Guildhall School of Music and Drama on the Embank-



ment. The school is part of a \$730 million development by investment bank JP Morgan which includes the former City of London School where Morgan is based. The developers have preserved the music school's grade II listed 1886 facade, designed by Horace Jones, the architect responsible for Tower Bridge. Tim Razzall, Frere Cholmeley chief executive, says it is a "good time to be moving" with the least reflecting current property rates. Unlike other Frere Cholmeley partners, located in less distinguished buildings in High Holborn, Razzall has worked at number 28 Lincoln's Inn Fields since he joined as an articled clerk in 1966. "I expect I'll turn up here on auto-pilot for the first few weeks before I find I'm in the wrong place," he says.

Bali high award

PATRICK VAUGHAN, managing director of Arlington Securities, the business parks developer, is not known as "Capabillity Vaughan" for nothing. Ar-

lington, owned by British Aerospace, and renowned for its landscaped schemes, featuring swans and geese, has just won a landscaping award from the British Association of Landscape Industries (Bali). Vaughan can contemplate the medal as he ponders Arlington's future. It has been widely mooted BAE will float the company this year after Vaughan's "golden handshake" contract expires in August.

Bandage boy

BEING partially mummified may not be every schoolboy's idea of fun but it has not done any much damage to Norman Stoller, chairman of Seton Healthcare, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Stoller, 57, says he spent much of his youth "impersonating an Egyptian mummy" as a test case for Tubigrip, Seton's best-known product, a tubular bandage invented by his father, Ivor, which dominates the UK market. On leaving the RAF, Stoller started selling the bandages and his demonstrations created a lasting impression. On Friday, at Seton's annual meeting, he was assailed by former customers who had bought bandages from him and have since become Seton shareholders. "You're the boy who used to sell me Tubigrip 40 years ago," said one lady, now chief pharmacist in a Lancashire hospital. "I'm still the boy selling it to you." Stoller replied before handing her, and other shareholders and employees, a bottle of pink champagne to mark the 40th anniversary.

DEBRA ISAAC

Where are the pensioners on the pensions committee?

From Mr Ralph Whiting Sir, As a response to the Maxwell pensions scandal and prompted by the highly critical report of the House of Commons Select Committee, the Government has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Roy Goode, QC, to review the law relating to occupational pension schemes. That the Maxwell scandal should have occurred is an indictment of the current system of law and voluntary regulation under which occupational pension

schemes now operate; a system about which most of the professionals involved in the pensions industry have been too complacent for far too long. The people who have suffered from the Maxwell and similar pension fund scandals are not the professionals who make their living from running, investing and advising pension schemes, but the ordinary members of those schemes who have contributed from their pay, until very recently on a compulsory basis, in the expectation that

those contributions would provide them with a secure income in retirement.

It is ironic therefore that the make-up of Professor Goode's committee should be heavy with pension professionals and advisers and light on lay representatives of pension scheme members and pensioners. The committee comprises two academics, a solicitor, an accountant, an actuary, an investment strategist, a life office chief executive, a retired investment manager, an industrialist and a freelance journalist.

While I have no doubt that all the individuals named are people of integrity and intelligence, they do seem to be more representative of the hitherto complacent pensions establishment than the membership of pension schemes whose interests pensions law should protect. Noticeably absent is any representative from any trade union or pensioners' organisation who might be expected to have an understanding of the needs, requirements and expectations which ordinary members and pensioners have of the pensions schemes to which they belong but no professional position to protect.

What we cannot afford is for this review committee to close professional ranks and to come to the same conclusion as the Occupational Pensions Board did on its previous consideration of this subject in 1989. The board, supported by most of the pensions establishment, concluded there was no case for reform. How wrong they were and how wrong will be this committee if it draws the same conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH WHITING,
Solicitors & Notaries,
30 Queen Charlotte Street,
Bristol.

Pension change issues run deep

From Mrs J. M. Marshall Sir, As a partner in a pensions law firm, I am delighted by Sean Hand's suggestions for altering the legal framework for pension schemes (July 15). Profits arising from the confusion which would ensue should be substantial. But issues of far greater significance than the income of pension lawyers are at stake.

For all the wrong reasons, the Maxwell affair has provided an opportunity to consider whether changes in the present structure are needed, and, if so, what they should be. It would be a pity to waste that opportunity by putting in place a structure which has more problems than the one it replaces. Leaving aside the practicality of some of Mr Hand's suggestions (how do you consult at least annually with thousands of members and pensioners?) the implications behind them should be fully examined.

Do we really expect employers to continue with pension schemes where they cannot control the benefits or the cost because a third party can decide unilaterally that benefit improvements are desirable?

Men only

From Ms Gail Cater Sir, In the Business Times of 13 July, I noticed that there were 21 pictures of men and not one of a woman.

No wonder women find it difficult to succeed in business.

Yours faithfully,
GAIL CATER,
8 Salters Acres,
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A WORLD OF COMFORT

Learning to exploit the cultural terms of trade

Other nations' styles might seem baffling or unnerving, but it is essential to accept them or your rivals will take business away from you, argues Susan Poizner

The world's businessmen are being pushed much closer together. The single European market is upon us; the American free trade zone is pushing south in response. Formerly closed countries, largely closed for two generations, are back on the itineraries of exporters, importers and investors. European and American managers are getting used to Japanese owners and to making a real effort to compete in the Far East.

This closer contact does not, however, mean harmony or that industrialists jelling round the world will understand their new trading partners any better than before. Misunderstanding is now one of the biggest barriers to international trade.

"I hate going to Pakistan," says an employee of a British textiles firm who is sent to Asia regularly on business trips. "Why can't they be civilized and sit down to negotiate? Instead, they want to small talk for hours. Then they want to go for lunch. If you're lucky, they'll get to the point by the end of the day...."

Most people recognise the lack of a common language or currency as a barrier to freer economic movement. But what about the largely misunderstood cultural terms of trade?

According to a recent Gallup survey, most small and medium-sized British firms are reluctant to do business with foreigners because they don't understand their ways. They believe that the Africans are corrupt, the Japanese indecisive and the Italians impatient. They question business ethics in the Middle East and intelligence in North America. They do not trust the French.

It all boils down to intercultural communication, a skill which is now being taught at various institutions across the country. The aim is to inculcate business people with an understanding and an appreciation of different cultures around the world — and therefore to minimise the likelihood of intercultural friction in doing deals.

Communicating with someone who does not share your native tongue is never easy. But while it is possible to simplify our use of language,

there are other aspects of communication which are harder to temper. One example is body language. "Europeans like to show how relaxed they are. If they are relaxed, by spreading their weight around," says Nick Henderson, who teaches businessmen how to negotiate with Asians. "In most Asian countries, the people can be relaxed but they tend not to sprawl as we do. They like to appear compact. Most of them are compact-sized people anyway. So imagine you're European and you're six foot five and you've got enormously long legs and arms and you're sprawling all over the chair like a spider. It will intimidate them."

In Japan, body language is also a way in which the hierarchy of management is communicated. Higher level executives are allowed to sprawl — a little bit — while lower-level managers have to sit tight. "So the message you give by sprawling may be that you're above your station," says Henderson, "or that you see them as your junior."

In Asia, as in Africa and in parts of southern Europe, warmth in business relations can be another cause of embarrassment if misunderstood. The French shake hands far more often than the British are used to.

The Chinese develop business relationships by asking personal questions about their partners' families, wives, and even about their salaries. In Pakistan, a considerable amount of small talk is expected before the business at hand is even broached. In fact, often the actual business discussion will take place in the last few minutes of a meeting, as if it were a casual afterthought.

Africans have an especially unusual way of treating favoured business partners. Richard Hobbs, director of The Centre of International Briefing at Farnham Castle, Surrey, discovered this when he lived and worked in Africa as an employee of Shell International Chemicals.

"In Africa," he says, "you have to get used to people getting much closer to you and even holding your hand. For an average Englishman, walking down the street hand in



Problem of communication at Unesco: misunderstanding is one of the biggest barriers to trade

hand with another man isn't an easy thing to do. But once you've done it you find it doesn't actually hurt. And in Africa, that's a sign that you have been accepted." Hospitality is a pillar of business relations worldwide. And in

most countries, a business lunch or dinner is an acceptable way to entertain a guest. But how, where and when that is done is a moot point. In France, the quality of the business relationship is often judged by the kind of restaurant you are taken to, according to Genevieve Ohayon, Barclays Public Relations Manager for Europe. "If you're taken to a really nice restaurant, with the best food and the best wine, it's a sign that they really want to put a

lot into the relationship. That's why French people might be a bit disappointed if a British businessman doesn't take them to the most luxurious places." Most foreign businessmen are prepared for the cultural blunders their coun-

terparts will inevitably make. But it is the more banal aspects of a deal that can cause boundless frustration. In different countries, different structures of decision-making prevail. While in most western firms, lower-level managers are able to make binding decisions, power in many Portuguese firms, for example, is far more concentrated. A potential business partner might feel that he has left the negotiating table with a binding agreement: the Portuguese will simply assume it to be understood that the decision has to be cleared by the head office.

The approach to contracts can be different, too. This is particularly true in the Far East, where a contract is sometimes said to be the first stage in negotiations. North Americans tend to find this especially difficult, because they have been brought up to expect that the contract will cover all eventualities and then be followed by the letter.

If international dealing is difficult for men, it can be even more difficult for women. In some countries, business women are simply not welcome. The Japanese do deal with western businessmen — provided they behave as it is felt they should, Nick Henderson says. "In Japan, a bus-

nesswoman can be accepted, as long as she behaves with dignity and a certain amount of humility. She may be very tough in business. That's fine, as long as she's tough on the issues but not on the people."

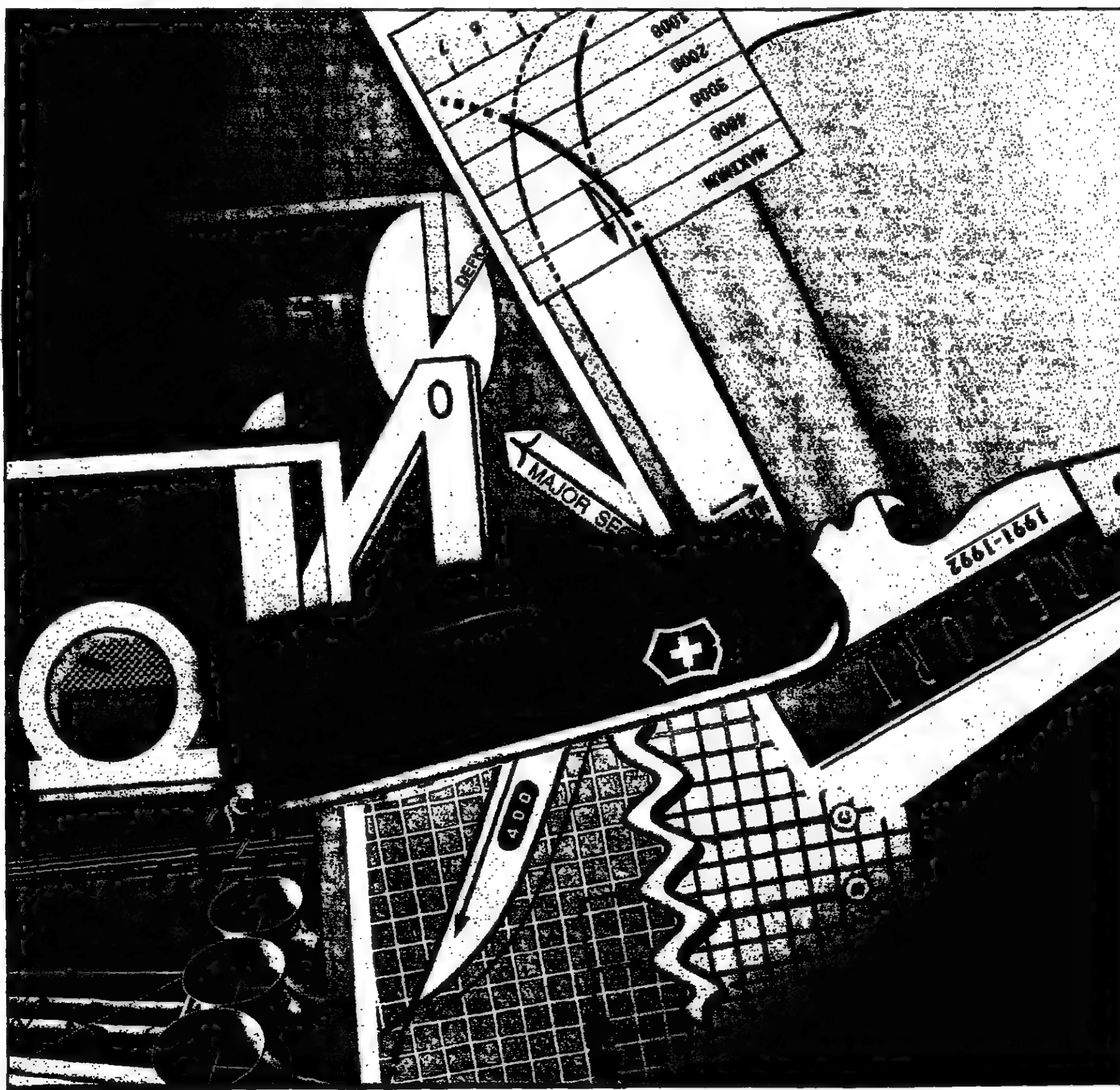
No matter who you are and where you go, when you venture outside the safe borders of Britain, you are often in for a surprise.

Barclays tries to avoid all these problems by employing natives of the country involved to represent the firm. Other large firms, such as Unilever, Boots and British Gas, send their employees to area-specific courses such as those provided at The Centre of International Briefing at Farnham Castle. The fee for an intensive five-day course of instruction will range from £600 to £900.

Many are convinced that international business is worth the effort. Certainly Christa, who is about to be sent to Bombay by the large pharmaceutical enterprise for which she works in Germany, is looking forward to her posting abroad.

"I think it's a challenge for me to get to know other people and other countries," she says with a smile. "I'm going to try my best to adjust. Why not?"

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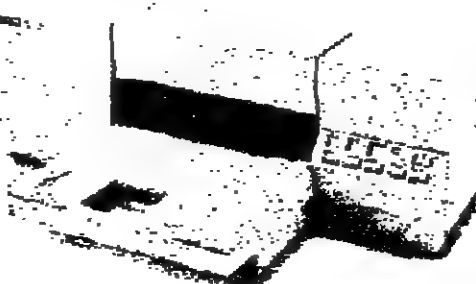
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Beware the kettle lying in the office corner

HARASSED safety officers are finding that items from kettles to computers are falling foul of new regulations governing electrical equipment at work.

Many are unaware that they have come under the scope of the rules until they receive a demand from the local authority's environmental officer asking for a list of appliances and the dates on which they were last checked. Others are panicked by unscrupulous outfits who sell their testing services through dire warnings of the £2,000 fines and the six-month prison sentences that can be imposed on companies failing to comply.

The confusion has arisen from attempts to update the 1908 laws to control the use of new-fangled electricity in factories. Some of the machinery covered no longer exists.

The Electricity at Work regulations, which came into force in April 1990, spread the safety rules to all businesses but make them less specific. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) says: "The aim was to have a wider, more general approach. It is difficult to be pedantic about how often a piece of equipment should be tested. In an office, an annual check is probably enough. On a building site, items should be checked quarterly and inspected briefly every time they are used because the degree of potential damage is far higher."

Companies are finding, however, that the general rule is nonetheless far-reaching. For example, it is an offence to use a 5-amp piece of equipment on a 15-amp fuse or for a length of lead to be too long. If an employee brings a kettle in to brew a cup of tea, it should be tested before it is used. Since manufacturers are responsible for new items, it can be cheaper to

buy a new kettle once a year than to have the old one tested, a point that affects hotels providing kettles.

Matthew Wernham, of the management of Amec, the engineering company, says: "The 1989 regulations clearly state that businesses have to do more than just a visual check to see if the casing is cracked or if a bare wire is hanging out of a plug. There is a lot of confusion about what people's obligations are."

The cost of compliance can vary enormously. Mr Wernham says: "If a business is one man and a dog he needs only to keep a card index. We have a computer system that tests equipment and records where each item is and when it was last tested. It works off bar codes, just like supermarket shopping. For a multinational company with premises scattered around the country, it could cost £250,000 a year to comply with the regulations."

The Engineer magazine reports that some cowboys have tested computers with equipment designed for kettles, inflicting heavy damage. The scale of the confusion over the new regulations is unclear. Mr Wernham claims that the authorities are receiving a dozen enquiries a day from puzzled safety officers. The HSE says it can get up to half a dozen calls in a day at its head office and admits that more calls are handled at its regional offices and by local authorities. The HSE says environmental officers will give a company 30 days to have equipment tested. Prosecutions have only taken place where too many items have been plugged into one adaptor or where naked wires are held in a socket with matchsticks.

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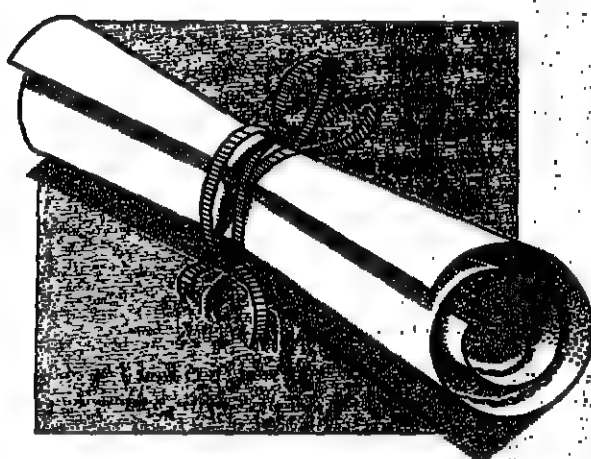
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SEARCH

Less risk, more cover

A repeat of the Hammersmith swaps deal must be avoided.

Derek Wheatley reports

The House of Lords decision in the Hammersmith swaps case last year caused consternation in the City. Deals in the sophisticated interest rate swaps market of many millions involving local authorities were declared void. When a council lost, it could say: "Oh, what a shame, but we are not going to pay you because we should not have entered into the deal in the first place."

The swaps market had been established since the early 1980s and had become a recognised corporate treasury function used to hedge against exchange rate and other market fluctuations. It had been well known to the Bank of England. Surely it had always had the Bank's, and therefore the Treasury's, tacit blessing?

After Hammersmith the Legal Risk Review Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Alexander of Wealdton, was set up. The aim was to "identify areas of uncertainty in the law affecting financial markets", to define solutions and consider ways of achieving legal certainty and regular review of market practices. The committee made proposals and is now considering reactions.

Dick Ware, the committee secretary, was left in no doubt about those reactions when he attended a seminar at Watson, Farley & Williams last week. The talk was aimed more at the detail of the proposals, rather than the substance. The idea is to find a permanent way to tackle the legal uncertainties of the wholesale markets, including better communications between City institutions and the government.

One important proposal is a Financial Law Panel, to initiate standard market documentation, user guides and procedures, and inform participants of particular legal risks and new developments. The panel would help the courts because "it could give guidance as to forms of documentation and procedure and could issue statements on best market practice".

Established good market practice and contractual obligation in a particular field would rarely differ, so in practice the panel might have a quasi-judicial function. It would be part of a two-stage structure, the second stage being the Financial Law Liaison Group, which might include representatives from the Bank of England, government departments and regulatory bodies. The panel would work with the group, which would consider areas where the law was deficient and propose



remedial legislation. This should become a reality. The need for early warning of a serious legal problem and the ability to put it right could not have been shown more clearly than in the Hammersmith case. The basis of that decision was that the swaps market was a new market, and the courts were dealing with it in good faith, but the council's swap officials needed to be aware of the legal risks. A deal was made to the council, it might be beyond their constitutional powers to enter into it. The Borough Council was able to avoid its obligations when things went wrong by relying on the illegality of its own officials' acts. All this was in relation to a course of dealing that had been in existence for more than ten years with at least the tacit approval of the Bank of England.

Better means of communication with government are seriously needed. There are no clear lines of approach to a minister except through a constituency MP. It is rare for anybody, however knowledgeable and experienced, to be able to obtain a change in the law. The many committees devoted to law reform rarely achieve it. The Law Commission has no record for attaining swift, let alone certain, statutory reform, even in the most obvious of cases.

The committee's proposals deserve encouragement, although a Financial Law Panel might tread on some toes. For

instance, would it not be trespassing on the function of the City firms that advise on the topics that are to be referred to the panel? Nicholas Wilson, a member of the committee, was quick to deny that the proposals would have any such effect. But was he right?

Proposals for standard documentation might inhibit those in the financial markets from obtaining documents drafted to suit their individual needs. City expertise in producing individually tailored documentation of all kinds is a strength that should be retained.

Some of the proposed terms of reference seem to need further consideration, for example, "to advise on good/best market practice", which should be left to the participants to establish themselves. Encouraging and advising on the "formulation and use of standard documentation and procedures" cuts across the traditional functions of City advisers and inhibits individuality.

"To encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR)" might not generally be seen as a City committee's function. ADR, excellent though it may be, is still in its infancy. It avoids publicity and is likely to be cheaper and quicker, but it requires willing

participants and it has no equivalent for the courts' injunctive and enforcement procedures. Generally there seems no point in having two new committees when one might do.

A third recommendation from the committee was the abolition of the doctrine of ultra vires, the cause of all the trouble in the Hammersmith case. Certainly, something must be done, and urgently, to avoid a repetition of the injustice that the Lords' decision perpetuated in the Hammersmith case.

An alternative to total abolition would be that all corporations should be brought into line. Those dealing with companies in good faith as opposed to other corporations... are not bound to enquire as to the capacity of the company... or any limitation as to the powers of the directors... to enter into a transaction.

There would be a case for asking the Law Commission to consider the whole ultra vires question. This, however, would involve long delay and uncertainty, and in any event the Law Commission recently expressly declined to consider the Hammersmith case. The committee's root-and-branch solution to abolish the doctrine seems right.

Mr Ware says the committee will make its final recommendations in the light of £15,000, £16,000-£18,500 and £18,400-£20,000. Small firms will be at the lower end of the scale, and salaries paid by country practices are substantially lower still, the survey says.

All-party affair

THE well-known criminal set of chambers of Desmond de Silva QC threw a glittering party in rooms in the Inner Temple recently to celebrate its expansion. Mr de Silva's set has taken on 11 new barristers since the start of the year, since acquiring extra space vacated by Lord Rippon QC.

Respected as a powerful criminal advocate, Mr de Silva is famous for saving no fewer than 35 people from execution in trials in the Commonwealth and in appeals to the Privy Council. His work now includes leading the defence in some big cases of alleged fraud. Among the celebrants was Lord Richard QC, who has just joined the set. He was one of those tipped to be the Lord Chancellor had Labour won the election.

His arrival is welcomed as creating balance to Mr de Silva, a former member of Lady Thatcher's think tank. Lord Richard explains that 2 Paper Buildings has a long tradition of political diversity. Sir Dingle Foot QC, a former Solicitor-General, Dick Taverne QC and Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke were all ministers in Labour and Conservative administrations.

One person was missing at the occasion: a recent pupil of chambers, Lavender Patten. "She is very bright," Mr de Silva said. "She will make an excellent First Lady of Hong Kong."

SCRIVENOR

Money is not the lure of the bench

EVER since the Glorious Revolution, Parliament has concerned itself with judicial salaries, and since the reign of Queen Anne has decided what they should be. Before then the 12 common-law judges had been paid out of court fees and with such handouts as the monarch saw fit to give them. After 1689 it seemed clear to Parliament that if judges were to be independent they should no longer be dismissible by the monarch nor dependent upon him or her for any part of their remuneration. The Act of Settlement gave them security of tenure. For the future the judges of the three common-law courts could not be dismissed except by a motion of both Houses of Parliament. This is still so. No English judge has ever been dismissed.

In 1707 Parliament decided that these judges should be paid salaries of £1,700 per annum to replace the royal element in their remuneration. It was envisaged that they would continue to receive court fees. No change in the way judges were paid was made until 1825. By then it was believed that some judges were receiving scandalously large sums by way of court fees. Parliament decided that they should no longer be allowed to receive them. In future all the judges should be paid a salary of £6,000 per annum, except the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who should receive £7,000.

In 1932 the Treasury was short of funds. The judges agreed to a reduction in salaries. The Chief Justice's salary was reduced to £6,000, those of the other judges to £5,000. They remained at that level until 1955.

By 1955 inflation had bitten deeply into the purchasing power of judicial salaries. An increase was clearly necessary. The government decided to recommend to Parliament that judicial salaries should be increased to £8,000 per annum.

That is what they were on December 21, 1960, my 49th birthday, when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmer, told me that he was minded to put my name before the Queen for appointment as a Queen's Bench judge, if I was willing for him to do so. I said at once that I was. My reasons for this immediate acceptance were probably the same as those of many who accepted appointments to the bench. The present government will have assumed, probably correctly, that recruitment to the bench is unlikely to be affected by a rise in salary, which, it has said, should be limited to 4 per cent.

My acceptance was in no way influenced by the fact that I would be able to give up the uncertainties of the bar for the security of tenure on the bench. Nor did the prospect of

being knighted allure me, nor that when on circuit I would live in comfortable judges' lodgings furnished and staffed to the level of a second-class embassy. The attraction for me was that for the rest of my working life I would be able to take an active part in the administration of justice. After 25 years of practice at the bar this, and only this, was what I wanted to do.

I appreciated, as all barristers do on appointment to the bench, that my income would be substantially reduced, but I considered that this would be compensated for by job satisfaction and security. If I had had a large family or elderly relatives to support or I had got used to an expensive lifestyle, I would probably have had to decline an appointment.

By the late 1960s inflation had begun to erode the judicial salary of £8,000 per annum which had been fixed in 1955. Bar earnings were rising. There was a fear that if judicial salaries were not raised substantially, well-qualified barristers would decline appointments to the bench. In addition, stories were going around that judges in Canada, Australia and New Zealand enjoyed a better lifestyle than English judges. Reluctantly the judges decided to put in a wage claim. This they did in a confidential memorandum to the prime minister, Harold Wilson. The salaries of the supreme court judges were raised in 1968 to a minimum of £12,000 per annum. Since then the government has kept judicial salaries under fairly regular review. Nowadays they tend to rise in line with inflation. From time to time they get out of line with the incomes of those who practise the law or who are engaged in industry and commerce. There is the ever-present fear that if judicial salaries are too low, recruitment to the bench will become difficult and standards will fall. This fear is unlikely to become reality. In my professional lifetime, according to Temple gossip, few who have been offered appointments have refused and only two for financial reasons.

The government cannot afford, however, to assume that barristers, and in the future solicitors, too, will continue to find the supreme court bench an attraction. The prospect of a pension on retirement is no longer as attractive as it was. Ever since the Finance Act 1956 allowed insurance premiums on pension policies to be set off against income tax, any barrister who has taken full advantage of that act can now retire with a better pension than a judge receives. It will not, however, be indexed as a judge's is.

● The author is a former Lord Justice of Appeal.



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Pension verdict

JUDGES are hot under the collar about proposals to alter their pension arrangements, now going through Parliament as the Judicial Retirement Bill. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, took the opportunity last week at the Lord Mayor's annual dinner for the judiciary to have a sideswipe at the proposals in the company of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

The judges do not mind the earlier retiring age. In future they would have to retire at 70 - at present circuit judges retire at 72 and High Court judges at 75. However, they are not pleased with the proposal that they will have to serve 20 years before qualifying for a pension rather than 15. One Court of Appeal judge comments: "That means that judges will have to be appointed before they are 50, at an age when their outgoing, if they have family, are probably at their highest, and they will not want to take a big drop in salary to go on to the bench. So it will be impossible to recruit high-quality judges."

Lord Taylor has pointed out that the proposals would have the effect of raising the average retiring age rather than lowering it, as present judges will not be affected by the new lower age of 70. Nevertheless, the Lord Chancellor's Department is digging in its heels.

Juror in the closet
A MURDER plot trial in the United States came to an abrupt halt when a juror locked himself in the lavatory.



and refused to come out. The jury had retired to deliberate on the case of Lee Williams, charged with conspiracy to murder his lover's husband, Mark Powell, by shooting him and dumping the body in Lake Ontario. The death of Mr Powell's wife, Sharon, while scuba diving, is also being investigated.

At the trial of Mr Williams, two of the 12 jurors held out for a not guilty verdict. One, Peter Corning, wrote to the judge, complaining that he was under "intolerable pressure" to change his mind, then locked himself in the lavatory. The judge declared a mistrial.

Hope in court

THINGS are looking up for lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service and others seeking to break the Bar's monopoly of rights of audience in the crown courts.

Lord Justice Bingham, chairman of the BCCI inquiry, is tipped to succeed Lord Donaldson as the Master of the Rolls and will have a key

OUTS

role as one of the senior judges in deciding whether to uphold the challenge lodged over the Bar's ban on employed barristers, as opposed to those in private practice, taking cases in the crown court.

Lord Justice Bingham shocked some of his judicial colleagues when the green papers were published by being the first judge to speak out in favour of the reforms. The rules restricting solicitors from appearing in the higher courts were illogical and indefensible and could not be justified, he said.

Job gloom

A BLEAK view of the legal employment market for trainee solicitors emerges from the Chambers & Partners survey, which forms the forward to its new directory, A User's Guide to the Top 1,000 Law Firms & All Barristers' Chambers. Redundancies continue, and the number of vacancies has dropped.

As a result, salaries have been hit and the spiralling of recent years has had to be constrained, the survey says.

In large commercial practices in London and the regions, where trainees can hope to attract the highest salaries, the going rates range on joining from £10,000 to £10,500 in Wales, £10,000-£12,500 in the North-West and North-East, to £13,000-£17,000 in the West End of London and £16,500-£18,000 in the City.

In the second year, the respective salary levels rise to £11,500-£12,000, £11,000-

26 LAW REPORT

Court of Appeal

Law Report July 21 1992

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 21 1992

Queen's Bench Division

Publishing names of juveniles

Regina v Lee
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Latham
[Judgment July 7]

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, had no original jurisdiction under section 39 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 to make an order prohibiting publication of the name and address of a defendant in relation to proceedings in a lower court.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an application by Anthony William Lee for an order under section 39 of the 1933 Act that no newspaper report of proceedings in the Central Criminal Court under indictment number 92/0132 should reveal the applicant's name, address, or school and that no picture should be published in any newspaper.

Mr Andrew Short, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Miss Presley Baxendale, QC, as *amicus curiae*.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant, a boy aged 14, was convicted of rape in November 1991 and sentenced to two years two months detention pursuant to section 53(2) of the 1933 Act.

In June 1992 he was convicted of robbery and of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, namely robbery, and was sentenced to be detained for three years, consecutive to the sentence imposed in January 1992. At both trials, reporting restrictions under section 39 of the 1933 Act were

imposed. On June 25, at the end of the second trial, Judge Coombe ordered that the restriction upon identification be lifted on the grounds that the offences were serious, the applicant had a shock record and had been mixing in bad company so that there was a need to identify the applicant in order to deter others.

An emergency temporary order prohibiting identification of the applicant was made about 7.15pm on June 25, and was continued pending the outcome of this hearing, but that evening the *Evening Standard* carried a report of the judge's sentencing remarks, together with the applicant's name, address and photograph. The following morning there were also reports in the *Daily Mirror* and in other national papers.

The question was whether the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, had jurisdiction to make an order under section 39 of the 1933 Act in relation to proceedings pending not in the Court of Appeal but in relation to proceedings in the lower court.

An important point made by Mr Short was that this was not in form or in substance an appeal against Judge Coombe's order lifting reporting restrictions. He accepted that for that he had to go to the Divisional Court by way of judicial review.

However, his argument was that there was nothing in section 39 to prevent the Court of Appeal giving a fresh direction, independent of Judge Coombe. The Court of Appeal was now seized of the case since the applicant had given notice of his intention to appeal.

Since the proceedings were continuous and indivisible, the Court of Appeal had jurisdiction under section 39.

It was just and convenient, according to Mr Short, that the Court of Appeal should have that power and should exercise it when appropriate for three reasons:

1 Circumstances could change but there was no procedure to allow a return to the crown court after the expiration of 28 days.

2 There was express provision in section 159 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for any person aggrieved by the making of such an order to appeal to the Court of Appeal but there was no equivalent provision where a person was aggrieved by the withholding or discharging of an order. Such an aggrieved person had to apply to the Divisional Court.

3 It was unjust that one should go to the Court of Appeal and one to the Divisional Court.

The Court of Appeal saw the force of some of those arguments but had to go to the language of section 39. The words "any proceedings in any court" did not mean "any proceedings anywhere". There was nothing in section 39 to allow the Court of Appeal to make an order in relation to proceedings in the crown court.

As for the other arguments, there was no reason why a person seeking to vary or discharge an order by the crown court in changed circumstances should not go back to the crown court, as happened, for example, in the case of an injunction.

The Court of Appeal then recon-

sidered itself as a Divisional Court (see *R v Miah* [1992] 2 WLR 833) and granted leave to move for judicial review. It did not appear, having read the judge's reasons for lifting the order, that there was any basis upon which to interfere with the exercise of his discretion since he had directed himself correctly and had not omitted any relevant factor.

In any event by June 26 the damage had already been done. To re-impose the restrictions would be a classic case of closing the door after the horse had bolted and an unjustifiable restriction upon local newspapers and others which had not so far published reports. Relief was accordingly refused and the temporary restriction would therefore be lifted.

The position could be summarised as follows:

1 A member of the press who was aggrieved by an order under section 39 should go back to the crown court in the event of any change of circumstances or should appeal to the Court of Appeal under section 159 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

2 A defendant aggrieved by the withholding or discharging of an order under section 39 should go back to the crown court in the event of a change of circumstances or apply for relief to the Divisional Court.

3 If a defendant indicated that he was intending to apply to the Divisional Court, the crown court could grant a stay under section 39 pending a decision of the Divisional Court.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Hammond v Allen and Others
Before Mr Justice Owen
[Judgment July 10]

The High Court had jurisdiction to hear a claim by a tenant of an agricultural holding that the landlord was obliged to carry out repairs and replacements to the farmhouse in which the tenant lived, and, furthermore, the court had jurisdiction to make an award of damages claimed.

Mr Justice Owen so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, after a hearing in Stafford Crown Court, giving judgment for the plaintiff, Robert Keith Hammond, tenant of Little Eaves Farm, Chesley, Staffordshire, against the landlords and freeholders, George Henry Allen, Graham Thomas Allen, George Allen and Barbara Mary Allen, on preliminary issues, *inter alia*, as to whether the court could order the landlords to pay damages representing the cost which might be proved to have been incurred by the tenant and within the landlords' repairing and replacement obligations under the Agricultural (Maintenance, Repair and Insurance of Fixed Equipment) Regulations (SI 1973 No 1473).

Mr David Stockill for the plaintiff; Ms Joanne R. Moss for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE OWEN said that the plaintiff had been the tenant of the farm, an agricultural holding of 23 acres, for over 30 years, the tenancy being held under an oral agreement. He lived in the farmhouse which had fallen into disrepair. The lowest estimated cost of

repair and replacements was about £35,000.

It was common ground that under section 7 of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 the fixed equipment model clauses set out in Schedule 1 to the 1973 Regulations were deemed to be incorporated in the plaintiff's contract of tenancy.

The plaintiff served a repairing notice in accordance with clause 12(1) of Schedule 1 to the 1973 Regulations in January 1990 which the defendants failed to comply with. The defendants served a counter-notice out of time in November, after the issue of the writ, claiming that the works required constituted improvements for which they were not liable and that any question of their liability was to be determined by arbitration under clause 12.

Since the plaintiff was unable to afford the cost of repairs and replacement he claimed in the High Court that the defendants should carry out the works, alternatively the cost of the works, and damages.

His Lordship said that the model clauses in the 1973 Regulations placed clear obligations on the landlord for the benefit of the tenant and clear liabilities to repair and replace. It was the tenant who needed protection.

If the repairs and replacements, which should take place without formal notice, were not done, the procedure provided was intended and designed to protect the tenant by avoiding the law's delays and by providing a speedier process. The landlord was given one month by clause 12(3), and one

month only, after receipt of the tenant's notice, to serve a counter-notice, and only three months, by clause 12(4), to do the necessary works himself.

At the end of the one-month period the landlord's liability was conclusively presumed or found against him, and at the end of the three-month period he had no right to do the work. The tenant's entitlement to do the work himself and recover the cost forthwith then came into existence and became vested.

Parliament could not have intended that a recalcitrant landlord could have divested the tenant of his vested right, even less, as could well have been the case, that he could have involved the tenant in further liability. Accordingly, the counter-notice was invalid.

Ms Moss contended that, on the assumption of that invalidity, in the event that the tenant was in possession and unable to finance the repairs as in the present case, the tenant was without remedy and could not enforce his rights. The only remedy was to do the work himself and then claim the cost; reliance was placed on *Grays v Wadkinson* [1990] 1 EGLR 61.

His Lordship said that the Court of Appeal there at least held that a tenant had to accept all the model clauses for better or worse as one of them, in the absence of agreement in writing to the contrary, were deemed to be incorporated into the contract.

In the present case the plaintiff had to rely on those clauses so that he was obliged to follow the procedure provided for in clause 12, which was implied into his contract of tenancy. It was incumbent on him to serve the notice of repair and would have been incumbent on him to go to arbitration had the defendants served their counter-notice in time. Since the question as to the defendants' liability to execute repairs had been determined against them by their failure to serve a counter-notice, there was no reason why the plaintiff tenant should not bring proceedings in the High Court for the consequences of that liability, that is, the cost of doing the works for which the defendant landlords were liable.

The plaintiff had a right the existence of which was to be decided either by arbitration or by the defendants' failure to act. The defendants not having sought arbitration, that right had been established by default.

The court had jurisdiction to grant a permanent injunction under section 97 of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986, he was entitled to pursue his remedies in the High Court.

As to the question of specific performance the court might grant relief. His Lordship did not say that the court would so grant as it was "a jurisdiction which should be carefully exercised"; see *Jeune v Queens Cross Properties Ltd* [1974] Ch 377 (1974).

The plaintiff was also entitled to pursue his claim for damages.

Solicitors: Cowlishaw & Mountford, Uttoxeter; Hacking Ashton Jarvis & Co, Newcastle under Lyme.

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The Legal Directory

Readers will indulge us, I hope, if we plug the new edition of our legal directory. We are rather pleased with the way it has turned out. It is larger, with more entries and with an expanded editorial section. We call it a "directory" but it is really more of a yearbook. Only half of it consists of the A-Z listings. The rest is devoted to editorial reviews, surveys, and analysis.

There is a section entitled *A Review of the Profession 1991-92*, which looks at the way the recession has hit law firms in terms of recruitment, earnings, and profits. Another section contains a survey we carried out on solicitors' remuneration, and also a survey of solicitors' charges. Both tend to show that charges and earnings have not increased significantly during the past twelve months.

The *Specialist Lists* section has been expanded to cover 51 areas of law, and has been researched in much greater depth. The lists for the Bar this year emphasise individual barristers, naming those who are notable in their field. It is fair to say that the directory has now become firmly established. Bookshops are taking it in large quantities and a survey has identified it as the market leader of its kind. I have to admit that, modest and retiring though we are, this is all very gratifying.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS' DIRECTORY 1992/93: A GUIDE TO THE TOP 1,000 LAW FIRMS & ALL BARRISTERS' CHAMBERS. £16.95. Available at bookshops, or ring Biblos 0403 710971. Michael Chambers

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Passport to prison?

The UK government promises its citizens help in case of serious trouble when abroad. Stephen Jakobi looks at the reality

Today two British girls start their third year of imprisonment in Thailand. Patricia Cahill and Karyn Smith were arrested at Bangkok airport before they had even checked in their luggage and were convicted later of trafficking in vast quantities of heroin.

In Portugal, Michael Cook is in prison, having been sentenced to 19 years for child murder. Defence lawyers maintain that his trial broke most of the rules in the book and that the only evidence of consequence was that he knew the girl and had no alibi.

In Goa, Nick Brown sits in prison, along with two other young Britons. He is, his lawyer claims, the victim of police corruption and is awaiting sentence on a minimal soft drugs charge, having just been convicted.

In Nepal, a man known as "Hamish" has been awaiting trial for five years on a minor charge of fraud. His mental health is dubious and he has a withered arm.

The most recent case is that of Phil McLean, a charity worker, who appears the victim of a confidence trick in the Gambia. Western journalists report that Mr McLean was told to "repay" £250,000 to a witchdoctor in a precious-stones confidence trick, or serve up to six years in prison.

There are other cases around the world, yet to be investigated, where British citizens sit in jail in doubtful circumstances. There may be unrecognized cases of manifest injustice of which we are unaware.

All these people are British citizens. If they had carried United Kingdom passports, the words, "Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires in the name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary" would have been inscribed inside the front cover. As UK passport holders, they would have been entitled to ask Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to save them from abuse of one of the most basic human rights, the right to a fair trial.

The UK is a signatory of the European Convention of Human Rights that incorporates the basic rights: a reasonably competent local



Starting another year in a Thai jail: Patricia Cahill, left, and Karyn Smith, two of the Britons imprisoned abroad

lawyer who can advise and defend, an interpreter if the language of the court is unfamiliar, a presumption of innocence until proved guilty and a judge who allows the defence to put its case and who gives reasons for his judgment, which are based on the evidence before him. These are the rules of natural justice that all civilised countries try to obey.

UK citizens fondly imagine that should they suffer an injustice while abroad their government will do all practicable to right the wrong. In practice our consulates present a British citizen with a list of local lawyers and wish them luck. It does not matter how young or vulnerable the accused are.

The girls in Thailand were 17 and 18 years old respectively when arrested and had never been overseas before. One of them was emotionally vulnerable. There are no arrangements for legal aid. Where there is no viable public defender system the poor will go without a lawyer. There is no reliable

method of monitoring trials and, therefore, even when something is obviously wrong, the Foreign Office may be unaware of it. When Foreign Office officials are aware, they wait until any appeals system available is exhausted before making any protest, even privately.

This may take several years, even if they know of a brazen miscarriage, on the convenient ground that it is wrong to interfere in any foreign legal system — unless it happens to be Chinese dissidents being tried in China, where the officials seem to favour intervention. The policy is otherwise one of abandonment.

Earlier this year, arising from the experiences of one of the girls in Bangkok and those of Daphne Parrish and Roger Cooper, Fair Trials Abroad, a human rights pressure group, was formed to force the British government to face up to its responsibilities for its own citizens. Mrs Parrish and Mr Cooper are supporters of the group.

Hitherto, the only remedy for the victims of judicial mistreatment — even the notorious cases of Mrs Parrish and Ian Richter in Iraq, and Mr Cooper in Iran — has been to get friends and relatives to campaign for public support and to get a sufficient head of steam to force the Foreign Office to act on their behalf.

Earlier this month the group, which is sponsored by the human rights committee of the European Parliament, gave evidence to the all-party human rights parliamentary group. A vigorous parliamentary campaign is planned for the autumn.

Since its aims are political, the group cannot become a charity. The group, however, desperately needs money for administrative and campaigning costs. All those who work for the Fair Trials Abroad group are unpaid volunteers.

For further details, contact the author at Fair Trials Abroad, 31 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH (071-242 4957, fax 071-405 0779).

Soldiers charged by a state in limbo

Having survived the war, three men find themselves again in mortal danger

Even those who make it through the heat of battle can remain exposed to mortal danger. Three Croatian soldiers, sentenced to execution by firing squad by a military tribunal in Belgrade, must now acquaint themselves with this fact of life or, possibly, death. Their appeal is due to start today.

The three are Martin Sabljic, an economist, married and the father of two adult children; Zoran Sipos, a car painter, married and the father of one young child, and Nikola Cibaric, an unmarried employee of a small private company.

They were captured by Serbian forces when Vukovar, a Croatian town that came under heavy attack, fell in November last year. Along with several hundred other prisoners, they were transported to Serbia for trial. Their death sentence was pronounced on June 26 1992, a year and a day after Croatia's declaration of independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY).

The Croats have been charged under now defunct SFRY law with rebellion against the state and endangering its social order between July and November 1991.

They have also been accused of alleged activities of the accused took place, the international community had confirmed that the SFRY was "dissolving" and that Croatia showed at least elements of statehood.

This was evidenced in the confirmation of Croatia's right to territorial integrity and in the condemnation of the use of force against it uttered by the EC, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations.

In principle, the authorities in Belgrade have admitted that Croatian soldiers cannot be tried as common criminals under SFRY law. Before the Croats were captured, the authorities of rump-Yugoslavia, Serbia and Croatia explicitly agreed to apply international humanitarian law principles to the conflict.

According to a summary published by the International Committee of the Red Cross, this agreement also covers prisoners taken during the hostilities who are considered to be combatants.

It is the essence of prisoner of war status that captured members of enemy armed forces cannot be punished merely for the fact of having participated in belligerent acts. The charge of rebellion or of offences against the security of the SFRY is therefore inadmissible. Of course, it cannot be excluded that one or more of the accused may have been responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law. However, the alleged atrocities would have taken place on Croatian territory, probably against Croatian nationals and they would have been committed by Croatian forces.



In battle: Croatian soldiers take cover

A trial by the Croatian judicial authorities would seem more appropriate in the circumstances.

Even if Belgrade had jurisdiction to mount the proceedings, the military court did not comply with the elaborate substantive and procedural Geneva safeguards for war crimes trials in the context of an international armed conflict.

And even if the conflict had been an internal one, the trial would still be tainted. According to Amnesty International, the accused were tortured and there is evidence they were forced to make confessions. The proceedings were held in disregard of fair trial guarantees, which are part of both the second Geneva Protocol on non-international armed conflicts — to which the SFRY was a party and to which rump-Yugoslavia claims to have succeeded — and of universally binding human rights laws which apply even during a state of war or emergency.

MARC WELLER

The author is an affiliated lecturer at Cambridge University. He will attend the appeal proceedings in Belgrade to assist the defence in this case.

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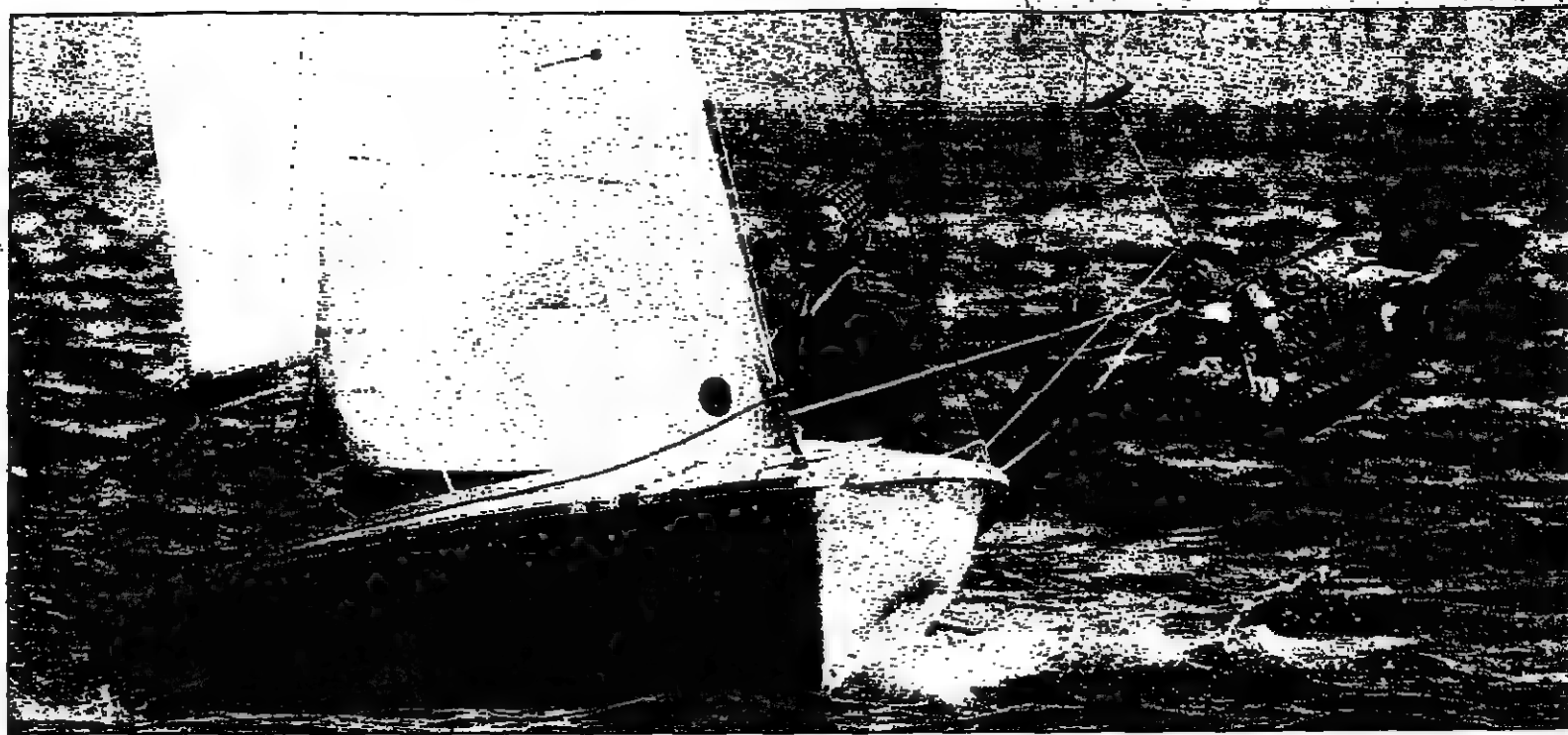
A respected insider discusses whether professionalism and drugs have tarnished the Olympics

Adapting high ideals to the real world

The Princess Royal, president of the International Equestrian Federation and the British Olympic Association and an International Olympic Committee member, gives David Miller her views on the Games and the IOC balance of power.

Miller: Are the Olympic Games still the ultimate test of sporting endeavour?
Princess Royal: When you witness the effort competitors take to get themselves selected, it's still true, and fundamentally because the Olympics are only every four years. If you miss the Olympics, that peak, the chances of getting back to have another are limited. Will severe selection standards create elitism and threaten the Olympic ethic of participation? You can't have it both ways. If it's the ultimate ambition, then it's bound to be elite. You have to increase the qualifying standards in order to control the numbers. In a risk sport like equestrian events, you have to keep standards up. In an attempt to make it popular, pulling in competitors not up to standard does neither the sport nor the individual any favours if they can't achieve it. If anything, raising the qualification standard may increase competitors' ambitions to go. Has professionalism, commercialism, drug abuse reduced public respect and appetite for the Games? From the numbers wanting to go, or watching television, it's a major sports event, although the public almost certainly regard the competitors somewhat differently. For those who are felt to be amateur, preparing on a shoestring budget, the attitude was different to those who have a larger budget courtesy of their sponsors. But some might argue that you can't have it both ways, seeing the best, that what you see now is better.

The ancient Games were not amateur. Is professionalism "correct"?
Princess Royal: Most sports require a great deal more trouble than they used to, and you need financial support to reach this level of competition. To say you must not be paid to compete in the Olympics, as with prize-money, is about all you can do. Some sports operate so that sponsorship is paid to individuals through the national federation. That's the ideal, because there's a spin-off, with money left around for others at a lower level. Can the IOC live down charges of corruption? They have dubious methods of coming to a decision, but I don't know that that's corruption. I do think the IOC has to concern itself. Its host city bid process is one of the areas and the possibility of corruption is a good idea. Equally, I think the democratic process is short-circuited within the IOC (by the executive board). The democratic process is not seen to function. Is the IOC's function, exclusive and self-selecting, still valid? In many ways it's hugely unsatisfactory, because it's treated very differently by different people. They're supposed to be there as representatives of a particular persuasion, political or national. It may be we need a more specific method of election, though I don't think there's anything wrong with the principle that members should be individuals. In theory, they are elected, but that's my point about the



Hands-on IOC member: the Princess Royal, seen here with yachtswoman Kate Rogers, says that knowledge of an athlete's motivation is crucial

democratic process: the system is so rapid, members are not given time to say yes or no, we know very little about the candidates before the vote is taken. Certainly, over the years new members have been the choice of the president, and not just with Samaranch (the IOC president). I think this puts the president in a difficult position and is something to be avoided. How might the president resist allegations of autocracy by the executive board? You have to define more clearly what needs committee approval [as opposed to executive board decision]. At the moment, members feel they are only a rubber stamp. Where should the power balance lie between the IOC, international federations and national Olympic committees? The partnership aspect really comes with the Solidarity Fund. That's the bit that links

them together between the Games. That's the most constructive thing the IOC does. If they could strengthen and broaden that commitment I don't think they would have a problem. The proportion of income that goes to the fund has to increase. The row about a division of income [between the IOC, federations and NOCs] will run and run. What are the qualities needed when finding a successor to Samaranch? Someone who has the ability to be their own person, and with enough knowledge of sport to recognise the needs of athletes. That knowledge of individual motivation is crucial. There is a sad contradiction in having limitation on a national Olympic committee and that is why Samaranch has turned it into a full-time job. That is the number one reason why there is no way I would ever contemplate my name being put

forward. It does require a great deal of time, and I simply could not envisage myself doing it. You have to have a wanderlust. It will be very difficult to find someone who is capable of giving that much time, interest and enthusiasm. Yet an alternative, a successor, has to be found. But the commitment in time is going to have to be the same. You could say there is scope for giving chairmen of the commissions more responsibility, for the president to be less involved. The fact that Samaranch has kept a grip on commissions is what will make it difficult for his successor. Is there a move to push you? What is interesting is that nobody, and I mean nobody, has ever mentioned this to my face. Ever. I suspect everyone knows that my answer would be a short, sharp laugh. To what extent should federations and NOCs be involved

in host-city voting? It's not as straightforward as it would appear. Our NOC has some extremely capable people who know a good site when they see one, who understand the difficulties and could be a constructive voice for determining what is a good bid. That's not true of all NOCs. The IFs are the people who run the sports, the venues, and make the rules. Logic suggests they top should have a strong input, but they have a particular point of view. The IOC members should be capable of digesting the information and taking the overall, wider view. There's no doubt the IOC could save themselves a lot of trouble if they made the IF/NOCs more responsible. They could make life easier by rotating selection on a zonal, continental basis (Americas North and South, Europe/Africa, Asia/Oceania). It would stop all this wasteful bidding which really annoys

me, putting money together, by cities that never have a chance. How would you limit numbers of sports, events and competitors? My rather simplistic view is to remove all team sports. The original Olympic concept was for individual sports. I then get a sharp clip around the ear from the equestrian fraternity, who say that the team sport is much more important. When it's an individual activity, that makes me smile. To continue including the larger ball-game team sports seems a great mistake. How can the IOC take a stronger stance on drugs? There is a view that if you get caught using an illegal substance at the Games, you should not compete in any Games again. The IOC has said that in theory in practice it hasn't happened. If they were unequivocal, it wouldn't be a problem.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Britain's status is enhanced by tour

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

GREAT Britain flew out of New Zealand yesterday at the end of one of their most successful tours. A playing record of 13 wins from 17 games is impressive enough, but when the strength and quality of the opposition is taken into account, it is little short of remarkable.

Great Britain played six internationals, including four in the hectic final three weeks of the tour, and also faced formidable opposition from Australia's Winfield Cup sides such as Newcastle and Canberra, and from the equally daunting New Zealand provincial champions, Auckland.

Of Britain's four defeats, three came in internationals, with only Parramatta lowering their colours in other games. The principle objective of course, was to win the series against Australia, and in that the British were again unsuccessful, though the manner and the margin of the defeat suggests that the gaps between Australia and Great Britain is now closed to vanishing point.

Even more encouraging for the long term health of the British game, the strength of the reserve players has grown immeasurably in the last four years. In 1988, the British midweek side was scarcely a match for any of their opponents. On this tour the midweek side went through the whole tour unbeaten.

In addition to the 32 players originally selected, another half dozen were flown out as replacements, performing equally effectively. Another 18 or 20 could have been selected without noticeably weakening the side. "Our results on tour show the strength in depth we've now got in the side," Gary Schofield, who was given the captaincy during the tour, said. "We have plenty of players who are only 23 or 24, which have to be good for the future of Great Britain rugby league."

Britain still have not managed to win a series against Australia, however, and only when that has been achieved can they claim to have knocked Australia from their perch of top rugby league nation, one that they have occupied for more than 20 years.

Some critics argue that a more enterprising approach might have paid dividends for Great Britain. Such criticism is unfair to Britain's coach, Malcolm Reilly, who has done more than anyone to drag his side up to the standard of the world champions.

There is simply no home-grown alternative to Reilly as British coach. His contract runs until 1994, and although Reilly has not yet indicated whether he wishes to carry on as coach, this fierce competitor will relish an opportunity to face Australia again in the World Cup final at Wembley in October.

A SPORT-BY-SPORT GUIDE TO BRITAIN'S MEDAL PROSPECTS: DAY TWO

By JOHN GOODBODY

OVER the last five Olympic Games, 30 men have represented Britain at judo, winning a total of 11 medals, a success rate that no other United Kingdom sport can match. Although the men's team is less formidable this time, the women, who won two gold medals as part of the demonstration events in

Seoul, should add to the list of triumphs. At the world championships last year, the women won five medals. For Karen Briggs, aged 29, this is the opportunity to end an amazing career as a bantamweight with another victory. She has come back from numerous injuries to win four world and five European championships. She has broken her foot, broken her left

leg in five places and, in 1989, won the world title, holding her opponent down for victory while suffering a dislocated shoulder. Not for nothing did she have a radio play written about her entitled *Blood, Sweat and Tears*. Although she lost the 1991 world championships final to Cecile Nwak of France, she beat her main rival in Paris this year. "When you talk about

Karen you are talking about a different breed," Roy Inman, the women's team manager, said. "She is a genius at judo but she also works like a demon for success. My problem with most girls is to get them to work hard; with Karen it is to stop her working. "She batters herself for five days and I tell her to take two days' rest. She agrees then lies to me and goes training."

Briggs, who is 5ft and 7½st, points out that if she was to be beaten in Barcelona, at least she will have had the satisfaction of knowing that there was little more she could have done. The rest of the women's team bristles with talent. Diane Bell, lightweight, and Sharon Rendle, featherweight, both took demonstration gold medals in Seoul and were second in the 1991 world championships. Nicola Fairbrother is the European lightweight champion and Kate Howey won a bronze medal at the world championships last year.

Among the men, where Japan and the CIS will dominate, the heavyweight, Elvis Gordon, from Wolverhampton, can upset the most stubborn fighters with his countermoves but Nigel Donahue's chances of a place in the top three in the bantamweights have been affected by a knee operation.

step in building the movement. "These two appointments I have made should serve as food for thought for all of us if we are to maintain the unity which has given us our strength." Samaranch criticised the sports federations for being slow to follow the IOC's lead in the fight against drugs following the Ben Johnson scandal in the 1988 Games in Seoul.

"The suspension of the most popular athlete in Seoul marked a turning point in our struggle. It was the IOC that took that initiative and, sadly, we remained alone for many years," he complained. "Today, thanks to the efforts of all of us, I am sure that the battle will finally be won." (AFP)

THE BRITISH JUDO TEAM

Men
RYAN BURCH: Born: April 14, 1965, Hull. Category: under 70kg. He has won 11th Occasions: pool, all-around, club. Occasions: 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 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The top jobs
on offer
in public
management

PARENTS p5

Yesterday's
childish trash
has become
treasure

LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY JULY 21 1992

All human strife is here

Another boring day at the office?
Impossible in those seething cauldrons
of naked emotion, Lynne Truss says

Recently, on Radio 4's excellent *You Don't Have to Work to be Mad Here*, a man told a story about office life. It concerned a middle-aged secretary, described as the sort of person who knits and talks all day, keeps a few houseplants around her desk, and sighs a great deal when asked to do any work.

Well, one day this woman unexpectedly installed a standard lamp behind her desk. Nobody said anything, but they thought it was a bit odd, this standard lamp, especially when she added a few more houseplants and a magazine rack.

They did not heed the warning signs, you see, that she was making herself at home, and that more was to follow. A couple of weeks later a large square of

flowery carpet appeared, increasing her personal floor space. And finally, she brought in a dog. The point of this activity, of course, was to convert her work area into a living room, to prevent anybody barging in and asking her to type letters. And the beauty of it was it worked. People felt apologetic if they strayed on to her bit of carpet, as though they were invading her home. The carpet was a master stroke (I think the dog was going too far).

The really interesting feature of this story was not how weird it was, but how very familiar it must sound to anybody who has ever worked in an office. Carpet or no, the invisible threshold has tripped as all at some time or another. Businesslike, you march towards it with an untipped letter in your hand, and then suddenly you are brought up short, teetering on its edge, assailed by a misgiving that you have somehow transgressed a sacred living space, reserved for silent contemplation of the Argos catalogue.

Jeremy Lewis, who has just edited a quite jolly anthology, *The Chatter Book of Office Life*, has written that there are two types of people working in offices: those to whom work is life (and vice versa); and the rest, who permanently wish they were somewhere else (and who will resort to his of carpet if necessary).

The only trouble with the anthology is that, although most of the writers (from Charles Lamb and Dickens through *Diary of a Nobody* to Sinclair Lewis, P.G. Wodehouse and Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy) understand perfectly the mentality of the would-be escaper, few can identify with the real genuine office worker type who gets so utterly immersed in the daily doings of 15 people, a ticky photocopier and an irregular postbag that he or she can think and

talk of nothing else. This is a shame, I think, because although there is obvious humour in the "It's all an elaborate pretence" interpretation of office life (remember George in *Three Men in a Boat*, who "goes to sleep at a bank from ten to four each day, except Saturday, when they wake him up and put him outside at two"), the natural office martyrs (like me, I'm afraid) are potentially funny, too, especially when they start contending with one another so desperately for the moral high ground of self-sacrifice that they are prepared to stamp on one another's fingers in the scramble.

"You were in very early this morning," says your rival in sanctification, in a steady inscrutable tone. "Yes, about seven, thirty," you reply warily (wondering whether it would gild the lily to mention that the office is unheated until nine). "Yes, I remember thinking it was unusually early for you," she says. "When I watched you arrive." But you can understand why writers choose to believe that work is all about skiving — in Thurber's words, that it is better to have loafed and lost

than never to have loafed at all. Mundane and universal though office life may be, it seems to pose quite considerable problems for the imaginative writer who attempts to take it on. The stumbling block is not the politics or the sexual intrigue, it's the work. "What do people in offices do all day?" muses the would-be novelist or television writer, tapping a pencil on the desk and casting his mind back to the last time he actually visited a place of employment.

Alas, his mental efforts are generally in vain. He might just as well ask himself, "What goes through the mind of a hibernating tortoise?" for all the enlightenment he receives.

It is a mystery, you see. Unless you actually have a nine-to-five office job, and know precisely why you do it, the work is quite unfathomable. When the writers in Mr Lewis's anthology try to describe (in Keith Waterhouse's phrase) "bump as a way of life", there is almost always a coy distance from the nitty-gritty of the actual business they do (unless it entails writing). For example, what is Nicholas Nickleby actually doing in this passage, when he gets his chance of a job with the Cheeryble Brothers?

Young men are adventurous. It is extraordinary what they will rush upon, sometimes. Without even taking the precaution of sitting himself down upon his

He had to face the fact that he had been sacked by a little yellow bear with a magic wand in its arms



Typicast: the Milk Marketing Board in 1934, where the bland exterior of the workers could be concealing lust, love and greed

stool, but standing leisurely at the desk... Nicholas dipped his pen into the inkstand before him, and plunged into the books of Cheeryble Brothers!

"He has done it!" said Tim, looking round at his employers and shaking his head triumphantly. "His capital B's and D's are exactly like mine; he does all his small P's and crosses every t as he writes it. There isn't such a young man as this in all London!"

It is so strange, Nickleby is merely auditioning for a role here, not applying skill to a skilled job. Writers can inhabit the thoughts of a murderer, but they simply cannot imagine what goes on in the head of a person during an average day at work. Just listen to *The Archers* some time, when it visits the "estate office" and see what you learn about office work in general or estate management in particular.

Shula: Could you pop these files away for me, Susan?
Susan: Right you are. But I'll just have to move these other files out of the way first.

Shula: Oh, are those new files?
Susan: No, don't you remember? These are the files we were looking for last week, when the filing got into a bit of a mess.

Shula: I'll be glad when we finally get these files in order!
Susan: So will I!

The reliance on the word "files" may seem a trifle heavy here, but

honestly it gives you the gist. *Archers* writers can give us all the ins and outs of a pregnant sow's proleptics (well, literally, the outs and ins), but when it comes to office work all they can offer is vague gubbins done with "files".

Moreover, they expect us to believe that these two healthy normal women, spending eight hours a day in close proximity, talk about files, when in reality all sorts of other things would be going on. Susan would sigh a lot, and get on Shula's nerves. Shula would forget to ask Susan whether she would like a cup of tea, and finish the jam puffs. Susan would boil at the injustice of doing the lion's share of the work. And they would both studiously disown and ignore a bothersome coffee cup in which an energetic bacterial culture (brown crust, green volcanoes, white frothy bits) was steadily priming itself to explode.

Sam Goldwyn once said: "I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs." Mr Lewis's anthology is pretty good in the way fear operates in the office — fear of the boss, fear of the sack, fear of the person who is not afraid of you (whom you can't sack, because you are afraid of). Under the "boss" category, for example, he describes "human dynamo" types with clear reference to the mythically fearsome boss at Chatter & Windus, Carmen Callil, and also gives us Dickens's splendid Spewlow (of

Spewlow and Jordins), who, you may remember, represents himself to the young David Copperfield as a highly amenable employer regrettably restricted by the obduracy of the invisible Mr Jordins, who is "immovable" on many points.

Dickens would surely have been flattered to know that the modern equivalent of Jordins in British working life. Again, it was on the radio, in *You Don't Have to Work to be Mad Here*, that the story appeared. "Come in, Robbins, and sit down," said the boss, pleasantly. "I have just been reading this report of yours, and personally I think it is quite all right. But unfortunately Sooty (there he produced a glove puppet, who gave Robbins a straight glass-eyed look) alas, Sooty thinks it's crap."

This man was dead meat, and he knew it. There was, of course, no arguing with Sooty, who proved dead to all pleadings, as immovable as Jordins. And when the poor fellow finally emerged from his interview, he had to face the fact that he had just been sacked by a little yellow bear with a magic wand in its arms.

What you look for in an anthology of this sort is the glow of the familiar. Remembering my own experience of office life, I particularly wanted to read about the moral indignation felt by busy hard-working people when they look around and see that everybody else is laughing, reading, phoning travel agents or making a fourth cup of tea. But it wasn't there. I am indebted to Mr Lewis, though, for pointing out that a standard euphemism for "Gone to the pub" is "Gone to the bank" — because in my naivety I used to believe that one of my less happy colleagues was genuinely visiting the NatWest at all hours, and must therefore have terrible trouble with his finances.

The truth comes as a relief, especially as it makes sense of his red-eyed returns. I always used to think he had been reduced to tears by his bank manager. I also expected stuff about life in the BBC, where the philosophy of

thrift ("Is that pencil really necessary?" "Typewriter ribbons: the impossible takes a little longer") will turn quite flamboyant people into drab scavengers overnight. BBC stationery and furniture are so hard to acquire that you start to feel you are living under the old Soviet system and you wonder whether you have to sleep with somebody in order to get an ink pad.

To my shame, I recall taking a deeply hypocritical interest in the Open University aspirations of a rather dim personnel officer simply because I needed an Angloise, and I wanted this Angloise to reach me before I died. I lent her books; I listened to her opinions on E.M. Forrester (sic). I thought it might help me, but I was wrong.

But it seems that BBC employees don't write novels about the experience. Perhaps the indignity of scrabbling in bins for discarded Biers, in an environment of old carpet tile, takes the same toll on the creative imagination that it also takes on the spirit.

When I moved into my office at *The Listener*, I was initially surprised by the quantity of old broken furniture it contained, but soon realised that this was easily accounted for: my predecessor had either acquired lots of junk by grabbing everything that was going, or else, in the interim between his departure and my arrival, the rest of the staff had surreptitiously traded their old furniture for his.

Beneath the apparently tedious, bland surface of office life," Mr Lewis writes, "every known emotion and motivation seethes and bubbles — ambition, greed, ruthlessness, duplicity, cowardice, treachery, lust, kindness, tolerance, forgiveness, affection and even love."

He is right there, you know. Sinclair Lewis said that shop talk among colleagues is "the purest and most rapturous form of conversation" — and it is certainly what you miss terribly when you leave an office and go elsewhere. But modern writers tend to neglect this rich pasture, through ignorance or snootiness, or both.

Jeremy Lewis continues: "That so few modern novelists have the experience or the sympathy to write about the ways in which most of their fellow men and women spend their waking hours may help to explain why the fate of the novel has become a manner of some indifference."

But there is, of course, an alternative explanation for this indifference: that daily office life is so absorbingly dramatic that nobody really needs to read a book.

● *The Chatter Book of Office Life* is published on July 27 at £14.99.

TOMORROW

Marcus Binney on the best and the worst of Olympic architecture

Rabbits may safely graze, unfortunately

If I had a gun now, that rabbit would be history. To watch it sitting there on the grass, 30ft away, preening itself and looking around for fresh shoots to take from my garden, is insufferable. It's like being tied in an armchair and forced to watch while a burglar walks around the room and carries over a picture or a piece of silver before slipping it into the swagbag.

This scrap of vermin and its hoard of visigoth siblings have run through the garden like a looting army. They have devastated the vegetable patch. They stripped the bark off the Cox's orange pippin tree I planted the autumn before last and killed it. They have even taken the tops off the parsley. I feel such violence towards that rabbit on the lawn that I would strangle it if I could get my hands on it; and if I still had a gun, it would have been dead before this sentence was finished.

But I have no guns. I turned them in to the police in March when my shotgun licence expired. The only weapon remaining in this house is a .22 air pistol, more ancient than the memory of the last Labour government, with a muzzle velocity roughly equal to an elastic band propelling a wad of wet tissue. This piece may give children pleasure for target practice but it can

cause about as much injury to flesh as a flick on the ear. Sometimes, in my exasperation with the rabbits, I have fired this pistol their way. Once, I hit one. It jumped as if it had trodden on a thorn. Then it resumed its grazing. I gave up.

I gave up my shotguns for a cluster of reasons. The proximate cause was the introduction of the new regulations which now govern the issue of licences and the possession of firearms. If you want to have a gun today, you must submit to an admissions procedure which is as discouraging as it used to be to get a visa for a Warsaw Pact country. Pages of forms must be filled; sheaves of photographs must be endorsed and submitted; inquisitive police officers must be received and their questions answered. Guns must be kept in a steel cabinet, bolted to a concrete floor and secured by burglar-proof locks.

All of this hassle is, as it should be, more than a casual and sloppy gun owner like me can put up with. I have had a shotgun certificate since the time when you could get a licence by having the publican forge the vicar's signature on your application, swearing that he recognised your mark. One of my guns, a bolt-action .410 used as a garden gun, always stood beside my desk in the corner of my room. A 12-

MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon finds shooting is more pain than pleasure



bore was kept behind the curtain by the back door. They were partially dismantled to make sure that they could not be fired by a child or an inquisitive stranger; but they were part of the furniture. A determined and lucky burglar might have had some chance of finding all the component parts and the cartridges, which were hidden on a high shelf. That slim chance is, incontestably, too great to be

li-censed. The new regulations have successfully protected me from committing the terrible crime of negligence in allowing my guns to be stolen; and they have protected society from the consequences of that crime. I am glad, I imagine that you are glad, too. The new laws are good laws.

The other reason why I surrendered my guns was personal. It was more particular to my own age than to a general age in which the demands of public safety can no longer allow the keeping of firearms, in the casual ways of the past, like spanners or fishing rods. When I became middle-aged, I found myself unable to risk hurting animals. This came as something of a turn-up. The man who was reluctant to squeeze the trigger was not one to whom I had previously been introduced. I had loved shooting since I first got a shotgun in my hands at the age of 12. Having worked as a beater for driven shoots when I was a boy, I always loathed that style of massacre and most of the people who enjoyed it but a rough shoot alone or in the company of one or two others gave me as much pleasure as anything on earth.

The rule by which I shot was that the animals which I killed must be eaten or be given away to be eaten.

That principle kept the killing down and set the bounds upon the moral argument. If I had killed a bird, then plucked and gutted it and prepared it for cooking, I reckoned I had a better right to eat it than the restaurant diner had to his plate of veal or the family to its oven-ready turkey steaks, bought in a packet from the supermarket. Anybody who wanted to criticise me for shooting birds would get that answer in fewer words.

Then the pleasure went out of it. In poor light one evening, seven years ago, I miss-hit a pheasant and blew a leg off. It came down in a spinny and vanished into undergrowth. Its screams were exactly like a baby's. I stumbled around for many minutes with that screaming in my ears before I found the bird and killed it. Eating that flesh was like eating ashes.

I had often caused more painful injuries to animals; but I had never minded so much. In following years, which included a spell of vegetarianism, I shot sometimes but never with the old relish. The pleasure of the kill had been ruined by the horror of inflicting pain.

So it happens that this voracious rabbit may safely graze. I could cheerfully kill the little bleeder; but I don't hurt it. There's a mid-life paradox, if you like.

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2 ARTS

ALVIN ALLEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE: The Alvin Alvin American Dance Theatre was founded by the late Alvin Alvin in 1958 to many modern dance aficionados with the experience of black America. The repertoire features works set to the music of the blues, jazz and spirituals, and should provide an evening of intense entertainment. This is the company's first visit to London in almost two decades.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Kenneth MacMillan's full-bodied Shakespeare ballet returns to the Royal Opera House for a run of performances that feature the debut of Irish MacMillan as Romeo tonight. The former Bolshoi star will be dancing with Viana Durante as Juliet. There is one of the most successful partnerships in the Royal Ballet. On Thursday, the French team of Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Haillet perform the leading roles.

BBC PROMS 52: Yan Pascal Tortelier gives his first from as principal conductor of the BBC Philharmonic. The orchestra gives the first performance of Simon Holt's wedding with the choir for voice and orchestra (with Michael Byrne). Directed by Britten's Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes and Holst's The Planets.

TOP OF THE TOWER: A musical meets director jazz as the all-volunteer British singer chooses music from her eponymous album released in the UK this week.

AS YOU LIKE IT: Some near touches animate the love stories in Maria Aden's straightforward production. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm. 180mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDENS: And Dartman's scoring psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Germaine James, Michael Byrne and Paul Freeman. Dukes of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 120mins.

DEATHLY JEMMY: 30 years on, Osbourne's hero can't and won't be a vacuum, and Peter Egan seems too good-natured to be the Angry Old Man. Comedy. Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 170mins.

THE DYING GILGAMESH: Michael's thrillingly convincing Hasidic community where the supernatural powers in on all sides. Joanne Pearce as the girl possessed. The Piccadilly, St. James's, WC2 (071-486 8891). Tonight, Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 3pm. 190mins.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barney song. Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Denham, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9552). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm. 130mins.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: With style and vision of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sledge songs. The production is a transfer from the Royal National Theatre.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE: Neil Hannon's a very fine as the sickening King in Alan Bennett's musing, slightly puzzling play. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-486 2122). Tonight, Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm. 170mins.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harpur and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and put their wits to work against each other: run-of-the-mill thriller. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-486 9807). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. 120mins.

NEW RELEASES

BELLE DE JOUR (18): Bette Midler's 1967 classic about the adventures of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve). Cool and compelling in a sparkling new print. Jean Sorel, Michel Piccoli. Brynmor (071-486 1523) MGM Savoy Centre (071-486 4470).

DAKOTA ROAD: Sexual frustration in the Norfolk fens. Good landscapes, but too much silly rural angst. Written and directed by playwright Nick Ward. With Alan Howard, Charlotte Chant. National Film Theatre (071-486 3232).

MY COUSIN VINNY (15): Adventures of a novice lawyer defending a murder charge (Tom Hanks). Unlikely support from Maria Tonnell, Fred Gwynne. Director, Jonathan Lynn. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-486 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-930 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-310 2630) MGM Queens Road (071-434 0311) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UK Whitehouse (071-752 3332).

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but no-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michael Pfeiffer's flickering Catwoman. Directed by Tim Burton. Denny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Bakerloo (071-486 9891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-486 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-930 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-310 2630) MGM Queens Road (071-434 0311) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UK Whitehouse (071-752 3332).

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

FESTIVAL HALL, South Bank, London SE1 (071-436 8891), 7.30pm.

SPIRIT OF THE EARTH: The South Bank's festival exploring divine influences in the arts brings a visit by the Russian Choir from Georgia. The choir will demonstrate the rich musical tradition of the Orthodox church. The second half presents Beethoven's Ninth, an ensemble of musicians and dancers from Senegal. The main religion in Senegal is Islam and worshippers belong to one of the three main brotherhoods, the biggest being Mouride (a version of the faith which only exists in that country). The group will perform a concert intended for spontaneous performance in acts of worship.

THE ELEPHANT (20): British premiere of Beethoven's Ninth, an ensemble of musicians and dancers from Senegal. The main religion in Senegal is Islam and worshippers belong to one of the three main brotherhoods, the biggest being Mouride (a version of the faith which only exists in that country). The group will perform a concert intended for spontaneous performance in acts of worship.

TOP OF THE TOWER: A musical meets director jazz as the all-volunteer British singer chooses music from her eponymous album released in the UK this week.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his capering after age. Excellent revival of Alan Price's classic. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-486 2122). Today, 3pm and 7.15pm. 195mins.

THE REBE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terence Davies' powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise; a wonderful rural collage of films. With John Gielgud, Michael York, John Gielgud. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-486 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-930 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-310 2630) MGM Queens Road (071-434 0311) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UK Whitehouse (071-752 3332).

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Staggering Channing recaptures her role as the red-haired girl in John Guare's play on human inter-dependence. Regency Court, St. James's, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE: A Welsh John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seems to equal East-Enders. Regency Court, St. James's, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harpur and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and put their wits to work against each other: run-of-the-mill thriller. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-486 9807). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. 120mins.

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, Hugh Quarshie and Stephen Rea at Belvoir Tivoli in Frank

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Louis Annaud's over-careful, faithfully erotic adaptation of Marguerite Duras's autobiographical novel about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in 1940s colonial Indochina. MGM Fulham Road (071-310 2630) MGM Queens Road (071-434 0311) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UK Whitehouse (071-752 3332).

THE PLAYER (18): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who lulls a writer, plus carmel and well-oiled galore. Regency Court, St. James's, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

THE BUTCHER'S WIFE (12): Arch whiney about a New York butcher's classic, with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham Carter. Director, Terry Hughes. Regency Court, St. James's, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

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Schmuck is currently running at BAC in Battersea. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, London N1 (071-226 1916), tonight-Sat, 8pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm.

DAVID BYRNE: He's back in Talking Heads territory, though the driving rhythms and oddball lyrics are now spiced with Latin rhythms. Playhouse, Edinburgh (031-557 2500), tonight, 7.15pm. City Hall, Sheffield (0432 733 2500), tonight, 7pm. Apollo, Manchester (061-236 9922), Thurs, 7pm.

PARNHAM AT SOTHERBY'S: The John Macgregor Furniture Workshop at Parnham in Dorset is probably the most famous contemporary source of individually designed and traditionally crafted furniture. The Workshop's 30th anniversary is marked by an exhibition of commissioned pieces by Macgregor and his pupils. The workshop is now open to the public. Sotherby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-486 5342). Dates: 2.30pm-4.30pm Wed and Thurs to 7.30pm, opens today until July 28.

WILLIAM BLAKE: THE APPRENTICE YEARS: The Tate Gallery is planning to cover the career of William Blake, whom it has an unrivalled collection, with an in-depth series of annual displays of different periods in his life. The first show, of Blake's beginnings, includes work by Blake, the reproductive engraver Blake was apprenticed to, engravings Blake made after Hogarth, Watteau and Kneass, and his original designs. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm. Sponsored by TSB Group plc. Until August 16.

McGuinness's new play: Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 011). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 140mins.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Hums, mums, squeaky-clean lots and drops of golden song: a sweet holiday from the past. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-486 2122). Today, 3pm and 7.15pm. 195mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dargatzis and Michael McGovern in a comedy about a dating mother's worries, notably her gay son. Aldwych, Aldwych WC2 (071-486 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 130mins.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Gielgud as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 165mins.

LOUIS LUNNARD: Musical theatre. Phoenix (071-487 1044). ... (C) Biddy. Victoria Palace (071-486 1317). ... (C) Biddy. Victoria Palace (071-486 1317).

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Underwhelmed by unlikely hero

Bryan Adams
Wembley Stadium

WHAT will the next century's historians make of the summer of 1991, when Bryan Adams topped the British singles chart for 16 weeks? Perhaps they will be better able to explain his success than those who actually lived through it. One year later, "[Everything I Do] I Do It For You" still seems an unremarkable distillation of blue-collar rock, motor oil and family values. It is no more than what Bruce Springsteen has done, with considerably more finesse, for years.

To begrudge Adams his luck, however, would be childish. He appears genial to a fault. On stage at Wembley, a minute, black-jointed figure radiating waves of anti-charisma, he was most likeable. He smiled boyishly between songs; he may even have scuffed at the stage with a boot. As rocker-next-door stances went, it was surprisingly endearing.

Portrait of an actress in middle age

Shirley Valentine star Pauline Collins tells Peter Barnard why she is back in the West End and not in Hollywood

The actress in middle age is full of doubt, prone to counting facial lines in a mirror, seriously over-reactive, moody, paranoid, a bit of a pain, quite frankly. Alternatively, she is a middle-aged actress in middle age. This is Pauline Collins.

Balanced? You said it there. So read not too much into the seating arrangements. Number One dressing room at the Theatre Royal in Bath possesses a couch and a chair, the couch being far from the mirror, the chair facing the mirror. Collins offers me a choice, as a result of which she takes the couch. This may seem appropriate, but psychoanalysis, even in its journalistic guise, is not her thing. She even reads the critics to "see if I can learn anything." Learn something from the critics? "Oh yes, although of course it depends on how comfortable I am feeling with the play, how sure of the performance I am. But I learn from what critics say, of course."

During a pre-West End run of *Shades*, the new Sharmah Macdonald play, Collins has been learning about Act 1. As written, the play (a love story set in the Fifties) had a first act which was twice as long and has perhaps been pared too much, I told her that this had bothered me slightly. She was disarming: "Me too." So the delayed opening at the Albery Theatre, now set for Thursday, was in part to accommodate a new scene for which a new set had to be built.

But what is this star doing in *Shades* at all? The run is scheduled only for the summer, and although you can never tell what might happen, *Shades* does not pretend to be a potential hit on the scale of Macdonald's big success, *When I Was A Girl I Used To Scream And Shout*. Surely the star of *Shirley*

Valentine could now be feet-up beside the pool in Beverly Hills.

"I don't think it's my scene," Collins says. "They wanted me to go to America for a television series but it would have involved a five-year commitment. Five years! It's a lot to take on and it takes me away from here and from the things I like doing, and I particularly like doing new plays, by living playwrights."

Broadly, the things Collins, who will be 52 in September, likes doing are, well, everything. You can open compartments but she refuses to step in. Not a television actress, not a film actress, not a stage actress. Just an actress. But surely films... all that money?

'I particularly like doing new plays, by living playwrights'

"Oh, I don't know, television here pays very well you know. I think it's better to live on your own patch, for me anyway. There is a curious thing about moving to another country, unless you find the right country, it's very disorientating for the spirit. Of course you can do one-off films, but moving to Hollywood at my age, that could be a struggle. I'm not going to be intimidated with offers. Why should they use an English actress except for English parts?"

Persuading Hollywood to use an English actress for English parts is hard enough. When the film of *Shirley Valentine* was mooted, the American producers wanted, of all people, Cher. Five of the producers were eventually persuaded to travel to London to see Collins in the part. They saw her on a Monday night, even so, she got the part.

Television, however, made Collins, who marks 30 years as a professional actress in September. She got the bug, aged eight, when her mother (both parents were teachers on Merseyside) put her in a school play as stand-in for an older girl who was taking A levels. Later



"I learn from what critics say": Pauline Collins does not appear to conform any of the stereotypes of an actress

she went to the Central School, ostensibly to learn to teach drama, because she could not get a grant for the acting course. But acting was the ambition.

Straight out of the Central School she passed an audition for the Theatre Royal, Windsor, which put her under the wing of Joan Riley. "It was a really good place to start. To work with Joan was terrific and being weekly rep you got some really good people coming there: one learned an enormous amount."

The same year, 1962, she broke into television with a part in *Emergency Ward 10*, prime soap of

the era, a move which was to shape her personal and professional future: she met John Alderton, now her husband, in the same episode.

Upstairs, Downstairs (also with Alderton) followed as did a string of West End appearances: *Passion Flower Hotel* (1965) was her first. *Shades* is her 14th. She has just made a second film, *City of Joy*, for Roland Jaffe, which was shot in Calcutta and stars Patrick Swayze, the archetypal modern Hollywood star playing opposite an archetypal English actress.

But that was all right, too. "Patrick comes from a tremendous theatre tradition," she says. "He spent all his early career as a dancer.

He worked like a dog. He's extraordinarily generous as an actor, he's his own biggest critic and he's very unassuming. I found him one of the least 'starry' people I've ever worked with."

The future is uncertain, as acting futures are inclined to be. Collins would like to make European films, meaning French ones. "The interesting thing about French films is that they use the medium so well, they don't over-dialogue it, which we tend to do, maybe because our history of film comes through theatre and literature. Our films tend to be over-written, whereas the French use the imagery. They write films."

longhand block capitals, is a book (due out in the autumn) about the daughter she decided to have adopted back in 1965. "I've written it in self-defence, really," says Collins, who has brought up two sons and a daughter. "Several people wanted to write it but I felt I was the person best qualified to do so."

She may now embark on a novel, she may even end up "not working in any of the media but sitting in a little room wearing purple and scribbling". Purple prose? Surely a joke... or a television series.

Shades previews tonight and tomorrow at 8pm, opens Thursday at 7pm, at the Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-867 1115)

ARTS BRIEF

Out of race

ONLY days before the opening ceremonies, Hugh Hudson has left as director of the official film record of the Olympic Games in Barcelona. The man who rhapsodised the 1924 Olympic runners of *Chariots of Fire* has been replaced by Spain's own Carlos Saura, best-known for his dance films *Blood Wedding* and *Carmen*. The British director left on apparently friendly terms, though the film's co-producers, Ibero-americana, criticised Hudson for demanding a mainly British technical crew and for not giving sufficient time to the project.

All change

ARIEL DORFMAN's *Death and The Maiden* gets its third West End cast on August 10 when Penny Downie, Daniel Webb and Hugh Ross take over from Geraldine James, Paul Freeman and Michael Byrne at the Duke of York's. Meanwhile, Mike Nichols's Broadway production, for which Glenn Close won this year's Tony Award for best actress, will end its New York run on August 2. Close is not leaving the play altogether; she is to star in Roman Polanski's film version.

Last chance...

IN 1795 Poland's loss was Britain's gain. Many of the most important paintings in the Dulwich Picture Gallery (081-693 5254) were originally acquired for King Stanislaw II of Poland, but when he was deposed they remained in London. His collection contains many other treasures, however, and while the paintings he never received are now on loan to Warsaw, Dulwich has a matching loan of other wonders, including a splendid equestrian portrait of the king by David and drawings by Rembrandt and Fragonard. The exhibition, "Treasures of a Polish King", continues until Sunday.

GALLERIES: TOURING EXHIBITION

Ghosts from a utopian dream

Richard Cork on a show which forms a memorial to the ideals of the Constructivists and Suprematists

The South Bank Centre's new touring exhibition, *The Non-Objective World*, could not have hoped for a more felicitous place to make its debut than Kettle's Yard in Cambridge (the show now moves on to Swansea and then to Liverpool). For the gallery extension was designed by Sir Leslie Martin, who as a young architect co-edited with Naum Gabo and Ben Nicholson, a book-length manifesto called *Circle*, celebrating the widespread poignancy of "constructive" form. In their editorial statement, the three men boldly announced that "a new cultural unity is slowly emerging out of the fundamental changes which are taking place in our present-day civilization."

The year was 1937, and all the distinguished artists and architects represented in *Circle* shared a mood of enviable optimism. The non-objective (or abstract) ideal pioneered by the earliest contributors to this stimulating show had come of age. And *Circle* believed that this liberated language could now be applied throughout the western world, transforming the quality of the urban environment at every turn. History, in the shape above all of Hitler, destroyed their hopes. By 1939 many of *Circle*'s adherents had become refugees, and the long years of war scotched any plans they may have harboured to build and embellish the cities of their dreams. So the Kettle's Yard show terminated at the end of that turbulent decade, turning *Circle* into a swansong rather than a brave new beginning.

Not that abstract experiment had begun at a time of peace. Kandinsky, who pioneered the viability of an art without representational purpose before 1914, was obsessed by intimations of a coming catastrophe. His early paintings may be triumphantly non-objective, but they are also riddled with visions of the apocalypse.

In Kandinsky's case, impassioned religious convictions led him to see the calamity as a Deluge or even a Second Coming. The work he made was no less discordant. "Painting is like a thundering collision of different worlds," he declared in 1913, before going on to argue that the



Space-Force Construction, circa 1920-21, by Popova. Courtesy of Annely Juda

convulsions would "ultimately create out of the cacophony of the various instruments that symphony we call the music of the spheres".

So there was a belief, fortified by the connections between Kandinsky's art and his friend Schoenberg's atonal experiments, that abstraction would break through to an exalted new order. Hopes of this kind certainly sustained Malevich and his fellow innovators in Russia. Although they were living through a time of chaos in their native land, their hopes for a triumphant conclusion held firm.

By the early 1920s, Lubov Popova was charging her *Space-Force Construction* with an exuberant sense of cosmic forces released and floating, just as Kandinsky had predicted. At the same time, Malevich's *Suprematist Composition* achieved an even more spirited alliance between pure form and the surrounding, emancipated space. His rectangles and oblongs dance on a white ground, their reds, blacks and oranges set free to sing with the maximum amount of piquancy.

But how "pure" was the language which the European abstractionists had developed with such zest and refinement? In the same decade, Mondrian and other members of the

uncompromising De Stijl movement pushed their work to an extreme that seems to admit no possibility of representational allusion.

Mondrian himself was driven by a mystical imperative. He believed that abstract art was "opposed to a natural representation of things. But it is not opposed to nature, as is generally thought." Adrian Heath, writing in the catalogue, even claims that Mondrian's approach "owes nothing to calculation or pre-planning", and that he was "an action painter working in slow motion".

By no means all the artists in the show banish recognisable reality from their work. Even at the height of his involvement with the abstractionist cause, Henry Moore still recognised that the rigorously carved green serpentine block he produced in 1937 should be entitled *Head*. And the little-known Florence Henri painted a gouache *Composition* which contains clear references to the walls and balustrades of a built environment.

The 20th-century city runs all the way through this exhibition, in fact. Ella Bergmann-Michel, another unfamiliar name included in Annely Juda's refreshing selection, seems bent on constructing entire urban centres in her intricately plotted work.

For all the seeming confidence of these archetypal images of the modern metropolis, the artists' lives were beset with frustration. Tatlin, some of whose sprightly and tense corner reliefs and wall-works are here in reconstructed form, never got beyond building a model for his ambitious *Monument to the Third International*. Carried in triumph through the streets on an ox cart, this spiralling helter-skelter of a building remained stillborn.

So did most of Gabo's ambitious proposals for grand civic sculpture. His sketch for a Tower Fountain has immense pathos, outlining the form of an aspiring structure in pencil lines so wispy that they already appear to hint at the impossibility of bringing the project to fruition.

The utopian idealism behind so many of these images has become even more remote in recent years, with the crumbling of communism and a widespread acknowledgement that the mechanised world carries its own terrible dangers. But the fervour which motivated the artists is still apparent in the work they were audacious enough to make.

The show reopens at the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea (0792 655006) on Saturday and continues until Sept 6, then at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, Sept 18-Oct 25.

PROMS

Dance for a Don

CBSO/Rattle
Albert Hall

SIMON RATTLE and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra had buried treasure to reveal as early visitors to the London Proms this year. They gave the first concert performance of the complete *Don Quixote* ballet, that Roberto Gerbard composed for Ninette de Valois, which has been largely ignored since the Sadler's Wells Ballet production in the early Fifties, with Fonteyn and Helpmann. Known only as a short suite the Catalan composer made from it (he lived in England and died in 1970), the music has much more character and integral beauty than that suggested. Not only the prominence of a *concertante* piano, here played as a four-hand duet, was reminiscent of *Petrushka*: the skill of invention and abundance of thematic detail in a narrative context is of comparable imagination and appeal to Stravinsky's.

The only surprise is that it should have been left to languish. Incidents illustrated from Cervantes include a vivid sabbath dance. Don Quixote's dreams and nightmares depicted with spirit and splendour in the course of about 35 minutes.

Only the slow opening and closing scenes seem a problem for choreography. Otherwise Gerbard was right to declare he had "given the dancers music and rhythm into which they could slip as into fitting garments", and it is to be hoped that so fine a performance did not escape the attention of some other potential choreographers.

The orchestra's playing was distinguished by its readiness of response to an overview on Rattle's part that trusted all Gerbard had put on paper, and then added his own perception of what that meant as a tone-poem sufficient to stand on its own. By contrast they were already well familiar with the following *Glagolitic Mass* by Janáček, and it glowed with near-pantheistic fervour.

The CBSO Chorus trained by Simon Halsey sang it from memory (which I do not recall from any London choir). With Kristine Ciesinski and John Michinson as the major soloists, the work came across as a joyful affirmation rather than solemn prayer.

NOEL GOODWIN

TELEVISION REVIEW

Eternal city mysteries

Sometimes, you are sipping a cold vermouth on a warm evening outside a bar in an Italian piazza, and you wonder if Italy is not the most civilised country around. Then one of those bombs of reality that pockmark Italian life explodes the dream.

Kidnappings, killings, corruption, Mafia feuds, political chaos: these parts of Italy's heartbeat tourists do not feel. Many Italians, despairing of ever punishing the culprits, throw up their hands and get on with life, skirting the uglier bits. Sometimes the horror is too ugly to ignore.

For two months in 1978, all Italy was gripped by the kidnapping, by Red Brigade terrorists, of Aldo Moro. Moro was five times Italy's prime minister, president of the ruling Christian Democrats, and architect of a controversial new "historic compromise" between the influential Communist Party and the Christian Democrats, a pact designed to bring political stability to a country where governments rise and fall with the tide.

The Red Brigades put Moro through a mock trial for crimes against the people. After 55 days, they dumped his bullet-riddled body in an abandoned car in the centre of Rome. The assassination has

left many unanswered questions about both police incompetence that exceeded even the famed clumsiness of Italy's carabinieri and about the government's failure to bargain with his captors, even though it has struck deals for less prominent politicians.

Last night's programme in Channel 4's *Secret History* series, *The Last Days Of Aldo Moro*, tried to fill gaps in the jigsaw puzzle with the help of a cache of documents, letters, and memoirs written by Moro during his captivity and found by a builder in 1990 in a wall-panel in a Milan flat. The programme also interviewed some of the terrorists and politicians involved in the drama. The film-makers still don't have the answer, but their hunch is that there was a political conspiracy, abetted by the P2 Masonic lodge which was later exposed as ruling the heart of Italy's Establishment.

The Red Brigades' hostility to Moro's historic compromise was explained by Prospero Gallinari, Moro's alleged executioner. Interviewed from a cage in an Italian prison, he said the pact "would have made the Communist Party the controller of the workers and the social struggle. It would have suppressed any type of protest or retaliation by

the Italian population. That is why the historic compromise had to be destroyed."

But why might the Establishment have rejoiced to see the back of Moro? The *Secret History* team suspects mischief and bungling by the authorities: Moro had too few bodyguards, making him an easy target; police bungling failed to trace his captors in time; involved in the hunt for Moro were members of the right-wing P2 lodge, whose Masons were wildly anti-communist and opposed Moro's compromise; Rome's refusal to negotiate with the terrorists was unusual; the leaking of a psychopathologist's report that Moro was suffering from "Stockholm Syndrome", in which hostages adopt the aims of their captors, denied public sympathy for Moro.

In his hostage memoirs, Moro suggested that the CIA had given money to the Christian Democrats in return for some muscle in Italian politics. Henry Kissinger told Moro he was against any pact with Italy's communists. So was the American secret service involved? We may never resolve all these doubts. Think about them next time you're sipping your vermouth.

JOE JOSEPH

BUXTON FESTIVAL

Level-headed girl in control and not averse to a few jokes

Jane Glover took firm control of Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers*, showing that the Buxton Festival has done well to appoint her its next artistic director. She had the Manchester Camerata playing in confident and often glittering style; she controlled and balanced the difficult ensembles with immaculate skill; and there seemed some evidence of her declared intention to avoid letting productions upstage the music.

If director Jamie Hayes included the occasional superfluous gag, that was surely in the spirit of what could well be Rossini's dotiest opera; and the gently doctored designs of Ruari Murchison — pleasingly abstract sets on the slant but vaguely traditional costumes — helped to create a production that took no major risks but at the same time seemed absolutely right for the music, neatly acted and always well judged.

There were more risks in the singing, as there must be in this kind of early Rossini, which seems to be all about

Italian Girl in Algiers
Opera House

noises. In the title role Jean Rigby took one sort of risk in performing when obviously pregnant, which gave a slightly odd extra dimension to the plot. The enormous runs and roulades of the part are also just a touch beyond her at this point; one had the sense that she may well be the perfect Rossini mezzo-soprano in the near future, but that her voice still lacks that last ounce of agility.

At first, Justin Lavender had some difficulty in making the high tenor lines of Lindoro sound graceful. Since most of the part lies above the staff, one can sympathise, while remembering that Rossini worked with a pitch standard with a semitone lower, which would have made things far easier. But later on in the piece Lavender

hit form with some ringing elegance.

Mark Richardson, as the evil Algerian Bey Mustapha who is duped by all present, launched fearfully if slightly roughly into his music. Claire Daniels — allowed only a few moments of that magical stage partnership with Jean Rigby that she showed at Buxton a few years ago — seemed effortlessly in control of the florid lines of Elvira. Mustapha's rejected wife, Richard Stuart gave a characteristic mix of deft acting and fine singing; Kate McCarney and Richard Hulton were excellent in their smaller roles.

The men's chorus, nine-strong and trained by Stuart Hutchinson, sang with a power and conviction that was quite exceptional for a small-budget production (and indeed many large-budget ones). That the words were always audible is a credit both to Arthur Jacobs's skilled translation and the care of all concerned.

DAVID FALLOWS

Around the vineyards, a glass at a time

The best way to develop a knowledge of wine is to visit the great houses and try it for yourself, says Robin Neillands

Wine is one of those products that suffers from the attention factor, the more of it you have in the house, the more of it you drink. The news is that, unless some sportsman interferes, from next January, holidaymakers returning to Britain can bring back 90 litres of wine free of duty. This is being greeted with rapture by wine buffs and those who run wine courses and wine tours. A few bottles grabbed off the hypermarket shelf to use up the last of the francs is a pleasure; 90 litres of good French wine is an investment.

The more you know about wine the more you enjoy it, and the best way to enjoy the learning is to go on a wine tour. A typical tour will last from four days to a week and concentrate on one area: Burgundy, Bordeaux, Champagne or Alsace, for example. The party will consist of no more than 30 people and usually fewer, who will tour the vineyards by coach, visiting the vineyards, châteaux or cellars under the guidance of a wine expert, who may even be a Master of Wine (MW).

The party will sample the finest wines, enjoy lectures to go with the tastings, stay in first-class hotels and return home with a full allowance of the right stuff. They will also learn a lot about wine and, like wine, these tours are addictive. People who go on one tend to go on another, and another, expanding their knowledge as they travel.

It is possible to visit vineyards privately, without a guide to show you the ropes. Many vineyards are very well organised, and offer conducted tours around their fields, cellars and bottling plants. The champagne houses of Reims and Epernay are making great efforts to promote their wines and some of the tours they offer are quite elaborate with slide shows and trips round the miles of cellars in an underground train.

Every tour ends in a tasting room where the wines may be sampled, savoured and bought. No great knowledge of wine — or even of French — is required. Wine talk, of the "carnation tints with a strong nose, full of stuffing" variety will attract only staves but a few appreciative groans as the tasting progresses will always go down well.

The leading company in this expanding market is World Wine Tours of Oxford which runs trips to all the key wine areas of France — Burgundy, Bordeaux, Beaujolais, Champagne, Rhône and the Loire. A one-week trip will cost from about £675, rising to £1,200 for a luxury tour; this price will include travel, half-board accommodation in first-

class hotels, the presence of a wine expert and numerous tastings of first-class wine.

A typical trip would be the World Wine Tours four-night visit to Alsace this September, to the Cave Co-operative at Turckheim and the Domaine Ostetag, and Gustave Lorentz, an old established family estate. The visit costs from £725, including superb food in a first class hotel set right in the heart of the vineyards near Colmar. This tour is led by Rosemary George, MW.

Bordeaux gets a lot of attention from World Wine Tours this summer and autumn. Nick Davis will lead a four-day visit to Chateau Cheval Blanc, Chateau Palmer and Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou, with lots of lectures, tastings wine and food for £725, while the real enthusiast can try the Bordeaux Wine-intensive course, visiting four or more châteaux each day for four days, at prices from £825. Moving to the east, the Côte d'Or of Burgundy and the vineyards of Chablis are featured in another four-day tour this September, visiting three châteaux in Chablis and such famous vineyards as Pommard, Aloxe-Corton, Puligny-Montrachet and Clos Vougeot. This tour is led by Master of Wine, Remington Norman, and also costs from £725.

Without a little exercise, four days round the vineyards would seem to be as much as the human frame can stand. Walker's France, of Henley-on-Thames, has directed its wine tours on footpaths through the vineyards. It works out cheaper, too. Seven days wandering and sipping through the vineyards of Provence from Vaison la Romaine to Avignon costs £595 and this includes dinner, bed and breakfast, lavish picnics with lots of wine, and a support vehicle. Other walking wine tours take place around Cahors and in Burgundy.

Blackheath Wine Trails is another long established company in the wine touring market. Its 1992 programme includes five days round the vineyards of Burgundy in September which includes a visit to the seat of the "Confrérie des Chevaliers de Tastevin", and the cellars at Gevrey Chambertin, which contain Napoleon's favourite wine. The cost is from £589 per head including half board accommodation at a good hotel in Beaune, all tastings and visits in the company of a guide-lecturer.

Those who enjoy go as you please wine touring might like to sample a Blackheath Wine Trails fly-drive holiday, with an itinerary covering vineyards in Alsace, Provence, Champagne and Loire at



Fields of enquiry: a typical tour will last from four days to a week in an area such as this, visiting the vineyards, châteaux or cellars under the guidance of an expert

prices from £272 for one week.

Anyone who enjoys Beaujolais but likes to mix the good life with some exercise should contact La France des Activités, which is running its horse-riding wine tours around the Route du Vin in the Beaujolais again this year. It helps to be a competent rider and wine lover — days in the saddle are rounded off in the evening with a tasting and a wine drenched meal. Prices here start at £612 per head. The company is also repeating its Gourmet Espionnage wine tours to Bordeaux and the Medoc, visiting selected châteaux and sampling wines. These trips are led by Caroline Yull, and cost from £477. Early booking is advisable.

VFB Holidays of Cheltenham has also entered the wine market and retained James John MW to lecture and guide on its wine courses in 1992. These courses get down to the nitty-gritty of the wine world, covering such skills as recognising wine by bouquet, taste, grape type, colour and region, and also explaining how to buy, taste, store and present wine. They also give guidance on understanding wine terms such as, so this is the

place to bone up on the difference between a "vin de pays" and an "appellation contrôlée", and what words like "skirt", "nose", "bouquet", "legs" and "finish" mean in the wine world. No serious wine buff can afford to miss them. The next course takes place in Champagne this October and lasts from five days. The price is from £445.

Arbiter & Clarke wine tours is a specialist wine tour operator, covering most of the wine regions in France. The bulk of its trips are short four-day breaks to the nearer vineyards in Champagne, Bordeaux and the Loire. A typical tour would be four days in the Eastern Loire and Chablis, costing from £279. The price includes all travel, half-board accommodation, various meals and all the tastings.

Arbiter & Clarke has a full programme for 1992, and here, too, there is evidence of the growing trend to "activity" by the inclusion of vineyard walks through Champagne and Burgundy, at prices from £430 for five days, full board and lots of tastings. Another new departure is company's gourmet

cooking and wine trips to Champagne and Normandy, staying in four-star hotels, four nights all-inclusive of advice on wine and cooking, for £429.

Page and Moy is running wine tours this October to Champagne, Burgundy and the Loire, visiting all three regions in seven days at prices from £329. Travel is by coach, so bringing back a case or two of the right stuff ought to be possible. The tour also visits vineyards in Chablis and Touraine, as well as the more usual places in the Côte d'Or and Epernay.

French Expressions offers wine tours to all the best regions of France as part of a comprehensive activity holiday programme, but will arrange special itineraries featuring individual vineyards at the client's request.

Cox and Kings is offering longer wine tours to France, lasting up to ten days at prices from £845. Intravel has three-day wine breaks in Champagne and Glyn Maddox Travel is running a series of wine tours to the vineyards, châteaux and négociants in all the main areas. These tours offer all wine lovers the chance to learn

more about wine and buy a few bottles direct from the vigneron, as a reminder of the good times long after the holiday is over.

Something rather different is on offer this October from Hampton House Travel. Bearing in mind that 90 litres is about 120 bottles, it are organising tasting weekends in Le Touquet before New Year, where a vast range of good wine can be sampled and ordered from the vineyards. In the New Year, after the new limits have taken effect, the clients return to Le Touquet and pick up their wine. Full details from Alison Curran at Hampton House.

There are wine courses and holidays like these available at a wide range of prices, to all the famous wine regions of France. Interest in wine is growing all the time and knowing more about wine adds to the pleasure of buying and drinking it. There is one final advantage — when you have learned a little more about wine, buying 90 bottles on that spirit along the wine-loaded shelves of the hypermarket near the French post will become far more interesting. Roll on 1993.

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Brochures and further information on wine tours to France can be obtained from the following companies:

● Blackheath Wine Trails (081 463 0012); World Wine Tours (0865 310344); La France des Activités (0449 737664); Arbiter & Clarke (0730 668833); Walkers France, Henley-on-Thames (0734 402153); French Expressions (071 794 1480); Page and Moy Holidays (0242 526338); Glyn Maddox Travel (0225 315629); Intravel (0439 711111); Cox and Kings (071 834 7474); Hampton House Travel (081 977 6406).

● A useful guide book for vineyard visits is Don Philpott's *The Vineyards of France*, which is published by Moorland at £7.95. Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Guide to Wine* is another invaluable aid for wine buyers.

A bell that is never silenced

FRANCE
TOWN OF THE WEEK:
CHARTRES

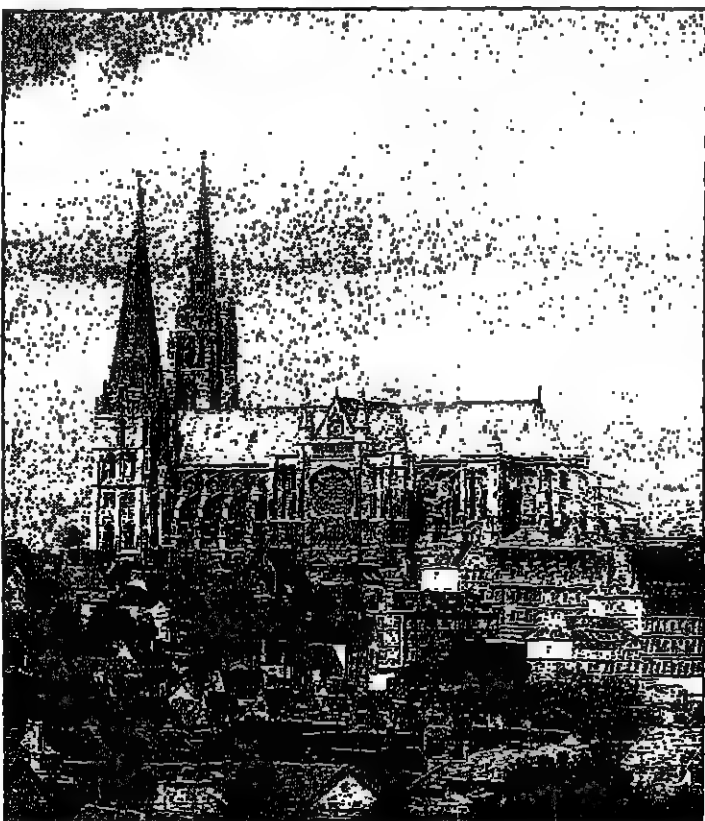
Every time a visitor opens the garden gate of Aunt Leonie's house in Illiers, the bell over the gate disturbs half the street. Marcel Proust remembered from his childhood the "metallic shrill, interminable" jangling of the bell upon its spring whenever one of the family or a close friend entered through the garden. Formal visitors came to the front door, where the bell rang with a discreet bourgeois tinkle.

Proust gave Illiers the fictional name of Combray, and turned it into a microcosm for all the themes of one of the saddest books ever written. His transmutation of the village is so intriguing that readers haunted by Proust must almost irresistibly be drawn to see it, if they find themselves in the region of Chartres, the greatest of cathedral cities, only 25 kilometres to the north.

Proust said somewhere in the depths of his world-like novel *A la Recherche du temps perdu* that the garden bell at Illiers had never stopped ringing inside him. As he tells the story, his parents' friend M Swann dropped in one evening, and the grown-ups sat out in the garden while the child upstairs waited in vain for his mother's goodnight kiss. His reaction trapped him in a cycle of anger, self-pity and remorse whose repercussions jangled on for the rest of his life.

The garden bell is still a nuisance to the neighbours in Illiers. A notice has been pinned up beside it begging visitors not to open the gate until it is time for the next guided tour of the house. Every summer afternoon a knot of devoted Proustians from distant corners of the world begins to gather as the moment approaches for the church bell to strike the hour.

Uncertain whether they are all there for the same thing, they circle



Soaring masterpiece in stone: the cathedral of Chartres

cautiously, pretending to have no special interest in that opaque black gate. But eventually one or other of them will fail to restrain their curiosity, and will push the gate a little and peer behind it. Instantly a ferocious clanging will announce to the whole world their interest in the great chronicle of Sodom and Gomorrah. Mercilessly, the bell will have "outed" them.

Today fact has imitated fiction so far that the village has officially been renamed "Illiers-Combray". Rather knowingly, several village shops sell the momentous "madeleine" sponge cakes (*spécialités proustiques pur beurre*). Illiers, being a reserved sort of place, takes fame in its stride, with a hint of disapproval even now.

The house itself has the uncanny quality of a place caught in aspic. Outside, one glimpses the very garden where Swann sipped brandy with the parents of the child who watched jealously from upstairs, and where Marcel's grandmother

strode restlessly round on rainy evenings, surreptitiously unhooking the rose bushes because she detested formal gardens.

But that is all stories. The incident of the kiss and the grandmother's rainswept walks really happened somewhere else entirely, and it was artifice that brought them here. The clanking bell is a fact, but it stands immersed in fiction.

In the house, fact and imagination run together almost inextricably. When I visited it, a child far too young to be there trailed round with our party. While the guide talked, the child happened to walk into the stream of coloured sunlight pouring through the garden door. She stood fascinated with the reds and blues cascading over her hands, lingering under the rest of us moved on. What sort of unconscious memories were being implanted at that moment, for retrieval perhaps 30 years hence? Proust would have understood

perfectly that the garish modern glass of the door might be a more potent influence on the imagination than the most sublime stained glass in the world — which, as it happens, is to be seen just 15 miles to the north of Illiers, in Chartres cathedral.

Chartres is so famous, and is beautiful in so many ways, that it is almost a vain repetition of clichés to say so. Rodin called it France's Acropolis.

The greatest beauty of Chartres is its 13th century glass, which is so rich in colour and so plentiful that it throws the interior of the church into a cavernous half light. It takes some time for the eye to adjust to the rainbow darkness, and to begin to register the massive mouldings of the stonework.

The giants in the glass are depicted in a barbaric intensity of purple, scarlet, yellow and blue. Here and there, needle-rays of white light reach down 100ft to the pavement, after finding a way through spots where a sliver of glass has fallen from the tracery.

Chartres is a tourist centre, with many shops catering for visitors of all kinds, and museums, exhibitions, concerts and entertainments. There are markets on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in the Place Billard. On Saturdays only there is a flower market in Place du Cygne, and a flea market near Place Châtelet.

The Restaurant la Vieille Maison, 5 rue au Lat (tel 010 33 37 34 10 67) is accorded three knives and forks in Michelin. Le Minou, 4 rue Mar de Latre de Tassigny (010 33 37 21 10 68), has one knife and fork, at half the price. A moderately priced hotel, listed in the Michelin is Hotel Poste, 3 Rue General Koening (010 33 37 21 04 27).

The tourist office for Chartres and its region, including Illiers, is at 28005 Chartres (010 33 37 21 54 03). The tourist office at rue Florent d'Illiers, will provide a list of local walks, including Swann's Way and Guermentes Way. Details of tours of Proust's house at Illiers, every day except Tuesday, from Société des Amis de Marcel Proust, BP 25-28120 Illiers-Combray, Eure-et-Loir (010 33 42 46 89 64).

GEORGE HILL

Beware the big spender

FRANCE
AT HOME

The decision to buy a house is the biggest single financial commitment any of us is likely to make, which is only one of the factors making it fraught. But buying in France as a second home is much less likely to cause sleepless nights and family rows, partly because less money is usually involved and also because the buyer is secure in a permanent UK base whatever problems might arise in buying the French house.

So relax. The idea of the project is enjoyment and you might as well enjoy it from the start. This approach will prove much easier if you know where the funds are coming from before you even make an offer.

For the sake of simplicity, I will assume you are paying £25,000 for an up-and-running three bedroom rural house. You may have that kind of money sitting around doing nothing, some people are renowned to be in that position, but even people with cash should be careful of spending it on the initial purchase. There is, at the very least, furniture to buy. And it is remarkable how many improvements even a dream home can stand once you start seeing it as an owner rather than a potential owner.

What you will need at the outset is a deposit, which is likely to be 10 per cent of the purchase price, although some agents ask for 7.5 per cent. It is worth checking that the agent is a member of the French estate agents' association (FNAIM) or that he has an official certificate, a *Pièce de Garantie*, which carries a reference number covering his *carte professionnelle*. That number proves he is entitled to do business and can, therefore, hold deposits.

There is no need to pay the deposit on the spot, but open a French bank account because it will make things easier later on. The best way to pay the deposit is by banker's draft when you return to the UK. This has the merit of officially sourcing the funds in Britain, making it more straightforward to repatriate money should you sell later on.

Bear in mind, as I have pointed out before, that the deposit is binding: if you change your mind, you will not get it back, unless you can persuade the vendor to include a let-out clause covering the possibility that you cannot get the funds. Either way, if you are buying direct, rather than through an agent, give the deposit to a notaire, never to the vendor.

the era of high British interest rates, by taking out a separate mortgage with a French bank (the big ones have branches in London). This will usually be over ten or 15 years, fixed at 10 or 10.5 per cent. Depending on your UK mortgage, this could be an advantage, but bear in mind that even within the ERM the value of sterling can fall and that will increase the net cost of the repayments. Do take professional advice: this column is a source of options, not financial expertise.

The final stage of purchase involves you getting a title document, the *Acte*. At this stage, or preferably before, make sure you see a planning map of the property. Every parcel of land in France has to be registered and the local mayor's office will give you a copy of the relevant one if the agent or notaire has not done so already. Often the property will have several numbers on the map, one for the main house, another for a later addition, one or more for parts of the garden, but the whole will be bounded by a thick line and each of the numbers will appear on the *Acte*.

Finally, the signing ceremony. This takes place in the notaire's office, and if he or she is a proper French person, will involve a glass of wine. Do you want to travel to, say, the Dordogne for a glass of wine? If you can spare the time, why not? If you cannot, the agent will take power of attorney at a cost of, perhaps, £50.

PETER BARNARD

NEXT WEEK
Insurance and utilities



Secrets of Top-Hole Stories

Victoria McKee reports on Britain's biggest collection of well-read children's books

Children's literature as diverse as the moralistic 19th century *Jessie's First Prayer* and the controversial contemporary celebration of homosexual parenthood, *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*, are part of the 80,000-book collection donated to the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood by the late collectors Anne and Bernard Renier.

The Reniers, who died in 1988, were childless social historians (he was a senior BBC producer, she had worked as a librarian) who had been amassing their amazing hoard — Britain's biggest collection of children's books — since the 1950s.

Their four-bedroom home in Barnes, southwest London, was crammed to the rafters with scribbled-in colouring books, guides for Hitler Youth and penny-dreadfuls with even more dreadful comments scrawled in the margins.

Tessa Chester has spent the past ten years — all her working life since completing her training as a librarian — cataloguing only half of the collection so far. She remembers that the books were piled up on either side of the stairs in the Reniers' house, so there was scarcely room to pass between them, and that "the loo and the bathroom and the kitchen were the only rooms that didn't have any because of the steam".

This month, 560 books from the Renier collection, chosen by Mrs Chester and Anthony Burton, the head of the museum, go on display in a school holiday exhibition entitled *Trash or Treasure*. It aims to show how the "trash" and trivia of the past can become the treasures of the future, and the museum is seeking funding which will allow it to make the Renier collection regularly available for study.

When the Reniers started collecting, children's books weren't regarded as particularly collectable items, so they were very easy and inexpensive to pick up," Mrs Chester says. "It would be very difficult for someone to compile such a collection today, when their potential value is appreciated."

Even the badges, stickers and sweet wrappers which the Reniers shrewdly saved are sought after today, precisely because their ephemeral nature makes them a rare record of their era.

The earliest books published for children, according to Mrs Chester, were from the press of John Newbery in the early 18th century, but there are earlier books of fables and fairy tales in the collection, a 1585 edition of *Aesop's Fables* being the oldest.

Newbery's books, with titles such as *A Little Pretty Pocket Book for Little Master Tony and Pretty Miss Polly*, were considered trivial at the time. Today, Mrs Chester says, they are worth more both in terms of interest and value than all the "worthy" moralistic tales which were printed in much greater numbers and which carried greater weight in their day.

The Reniers' is not a collection of valuable first editions and pristine, dust-jacketed volumes perfectly preserved for posterity. These are books that have been very obviously read and used by children — some of them, Mrs Chester points out, bearing rude words in elegant 18th-century handwriting.

"The Reniers collected these not for their intrinsic value but for their value in understanding the social history of childhood," Mrs Chester says. "An 18th-century book with a rude scribble was more valuable to the Reniers than one without. It's so exciting to find a 200-year-old book in which has been written 'Sophia is a fat pig'."

Michael Heseltine, Sotheby's expert on children's literature, explains that this is not the sort of thing that would appeal to those who collect children's literature for monetary gain. "If that is the object, the book should be as near as possible to its original state," he says. "There are books worth £100 which could make over £1,000 with their original dust jacket — very rare in children's books."

"But the Reniers were not normal collectors. They liked things that had been used. Looking at it from an academic point of view, the more used a book the more valuable it is likely to have been in literary terms because it was obviously extremely popular. But one doesn't need a tatty copy of *Alice in Wonderland* to prove it." A first edition of *Alice in Wonderland* sold by Sotheby's recently made £45,000.

There is only a second edition in the Renier collection — because, Mrs Chester points out, "the first is extremely rare, since there was a problem with the printing of the illustrations and it was stopped".

There is no original Shakespeare or Dickens in the Renier collection either, at least as far as Mrs Chester has so far discovered. The Reniers preferred special children's versions of such classics, such as *Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare*, although equally "adult" stories such as *Gulliver's Travels* are considered fair game.

There are "movables" or pop-up books, diaries, colouring books (some coloured in) and Victorian painting books, which came complete with watercolour paints in a very contemporary-looking fashion, journals and annuals.

Mrs Chester, 41, is a grandmother and feels her job has given her a better idea of the sorts of books to buy for her two-year-old grandson — by judging which have best stood the test of time. Far from seeming bored after ten years on the same project, she claims to be looking forward to cataloguing the remaining half of the collection, which could well become her life's work.

The museum boasts that its collection is four times the size of "its nearest rival, the Opie Collection", which is housed in the Bodleian



Life's work: Tessa Chester has already spent ten years cataloguing the Reniers' children's books

Library in Oxford. Mr Heseltine points out that size is not everything. "It's like saying a Peugeot is bigger than a Porsche," he observes. "Quality is more important. But tastes change and it is impossible to predict the market precisely. Victorian moral tales can become popular again, a certain style of illustration is suddenly in fashion."

There will be a section of the exhibition devoted to "sex", which will include such items as *Sex and the Young* by Marie Stopes and *So We Abolished the Chaperone* and *The Young Lady* says "NO!", pamphlets published by the Dublin Catholic Truth Society in the 1950s.

Mrs Chester and Mr Heseltine agree that almost any collection of children's books can have value, but Mrs Chester is looking at them from the perspective of a museum curator whose prime criteria is interest. She believes that in the future "situation" books which help children adjust to a new baby or a divorce "may become quite valuable. We are rearranging our top-floor gallery into a social history of children's literature which will include this type of book".

Adult collectors of children's literature are usually looking "for a bit of magic in their lives — or nostalgia". Mr Heseltine says. "They want either the old fairy tales or the 'new' fairy tales created by talented authors today — the fantasy element. Beautiful illustrations are very important, in many cases more so than the text."

To Mr Heseltine, who is concerned with investment potential, timeless classics are the only true money-spinners. "But that includes contemporary classics," he explains. "Maurice Sendak is already highly collected in America, and Raymond Briggs will be very important." Other first editions worth snapping up, he says, include the pretty picture books by Janet and Alan Ahlberg and anything with "the superb illustrations of Nicola Bayley or Michael Foreman".

Ronald Dahl should be another safe bet, "and if you can find his first book, *The Goblins*, that is a real coup. It came out during the war and is about Battle of Britain fighter pilots," Mr Heseltine explains. "Most authors' first books are printed in hundreds, not thousands, which makes them more valuable than their later more popular works, which are mass produced."

First editions of Enid Blyton's

works have become even more popular since later ones were re-written to be politically correct — and they, together with such controversial stories as *Little Black Sambo* and *Biggles*, are in the Renier collection as well as *Top-Hole Stories for Girls* and the *Boys' Own Paper*.

Sotheby's does not turn up its nose at comics. "Mint copies of first issues of *Superman* sell for \$60,000," Mr Heseltine says, "and there is a big market for first editions of other super heroes." But those big compilation volumes of fairy tales or nursery rhymes which make such popular gifts because they are so inexpensive are seldom a wise investment. "You'd be better off buying a single well-illustrated story in a first edition than one of those compilation volumes printed somewhere like Czechoslovakia as cheaply as possible," Mr Heseltine advises.

And because children often like nothing more than chewing over a good book — literally — Mr Heseltine recommends following the policy he has adopted on the advice of a clever friend: to "buy two copies of any children's book you really like — one for the children, and one to keep on the shelf".

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Not quite the whole tooth

On the whole I'm a great admirer of nature's design. The blueprint for building and growing babies into healthy, functioning adults is a master plan. But one component of the human machine seems to me fundamentally flawed. Teeth. In dental arrangements, nature has bungled. The whole system of cutting and keeping teeth is a catalogue of poor planning and potential disaster.

Babies are born with bald gums, which is fine, since they only have to suck to survive in the early months. But as soon as they begin to cut their first teeth, the ductiness of dental design becomes apparent. Sharp little felly edged grinders have to break their way through leathern gums. Although much unrelated grizzling and other infantile unhappiness is attributed to teething, there is no doubt that cutting teeth is a painful business.

Parents take a perverse pride in wishing this on their offspring sooner than the baby next door. Should a year have passed with no teeth in sight, parents begin to fear that their child will make dental history: it will never grow teeth; it will have to be fitted with prescription dentures before going to nursery.

At last, the inevitable eruption commences — again, a Friday-afternoon function of child development. Defying the textbooks, the teeth arrive in any old order, perhaps one gleaming tusk in solitary useless splendour, perhaps four fangs together, none as a matched pair. Then begins the irksome task of keeping them clean — another design defect. We have invented drive-in car washes, self-cleaning ovens and auto-defrosting fridges. For teeth, crucial as they are to human survival, we have got no further than a couple of rows of nylon bristle on the end of a plastic stick.

When they arrive, caring parents treasure these little pearls, bribe, bully and browbeat their children into regular brushing. Against the temptations of boiled sweets and fizzy drinks, they attempt to preserve the tiny tasks from plaque and ward off caries. So, what happens to these immaculate incisors, so clean you could eat your dinner off them? When full grown they wobble and fall out.

My daughter's class photograph says it all. Stacked lines of smiling children all saying "Cheese" and it looks as though some graffiti has been along the rows blacking out the front teeth with a felt tip. Crazy system. You get one set for the first seven years and another for the next 70.

As though it has not cost you enough in toothpaste and mouth rinse to mind their molars, you now have to buy them back. Whoever thought of inventing the tooth fairy ought not to have a plaque put up to him. Even the most cynical child can see the percentage in subscribing to this myth.

When the 20p coin was first introduced, the kindest suggestion made was that it was ideal currency for a tooth fairy. Inflation has overtaken them both. Today you're lucky to get away with a levy that doesn't fold. I remember my son and his friend counting their oral assets in the mirror to calculate



DAVINA LLOYD

whether they'd got enough loose teeth for a new Nintendo game between them.

Children's teeth are not only a financial issue for the tooth fairy, but increasingly for dentists. The current capitation system, a fixed fee for each child according to age, gives a dentist 45p per month, for instance, for each child up to two years old, who would typically possess 20 teeth.

"This is the first generation that has the potential to keep all their own teeth for the whole of their lifetime," says Michael Clarke, a dentist and parliamentary coordinator for the British Dental Association in west London. "Yet the payment system discourages dentists from making that a reality. We get an 'entry payment' when treatment begins, say £18 for two to three decayed teeth."

"Root-filling, with X-rays, anaesthetic and so on, which now command an extra fee, can take up to two hours of a dentist's time. An extraction takes about 15 minutes. If you were being given £1.80 a month to care for the teeth of an eight-year-old, which would you do? The system encourages a kind of supervised neglect. The most economic choice for a dentist faced with an eight-year-old with cavities is either to leave them untreated or to extract."

Parents who have taken pains to protect their children's teeth obviously make the more popular patients, welcomed on to dentists' lists. Who is going to want to take on the children with most problems and the greatest need for dental attention? Many end up in the casualty departments of dental hospitals in need of drastic treatment. Nature's dental system may seem illogical, but the NHS solution seems to make even less sense.

Meantime, it's back to the parents. "Dental caries and gum disease are totally avoidable," Mr Clarke says. "It's down to diet, oral hygiene and parental supervision."

There is plenty parents can do for their children: fluoride supplements for the very young, demonstrating where the plaque is with disclosing tablets that turn the affected areas bright blue (always a favourite with children), limiting sweets to one day a week, packing a toothbrush into the school lunch-box. But while dentists find themselves restricted in their capacity to support parents through preventive dental units, funded by capitation, this cannot be the whole tooth, and nothing but.

One is tempted to put the whole problem under a pillow and see whether the tooth fairy will exchange it for a better solution.

st step

Lost language

IS YOUR child a bratpacker, a rug rat, into watching splatter movies and grazing, or prone to zonking out? If you are not sure, check in the new *Collins Concise English Dictionary*, which will help you to keep up with what your children are saying even if not with what they are doing. The dictionary costs £12.99, but you will have to be prepared to buy the next edition in about four years, the publisher says, because the language is changing so fast that Collins can hardly keep up with it.

Time will tell

THERE is a new watch that can survive in the washing machine should it be left in a pair of jeans. Tickers aim to become a new teenage fashion fad with their psychedelically painted faces, wild, wide straps and price tag of less than £20. They are available at most leading jewellers.

Museum peace

THE Museum Store in Covent Garden, London, which stocks items from museum shops around the world, has lots of good ideas for creating peace at home over the school holidays. Choose from the Hampton Court Maze Game (£13.99), in which you can lose yourself for hours, a Paraphernalia for Presiding kit (£14.99) from New York's Metropolitan Museum, or Dress Me Dolls (£6.95) from the Leksaks Museum in Stock-

AND BRIEFLY

Let the computer games begin



In the running: Carl Lewis offers a computer challenge

THE Olympics money-making race is on. Computer game manufacturers, quick to see the potential of topical events such as the Gulf war, have come up with numerous offerings in honour of Barcelona. From Ocean Software there is *Espana: The Games '92*, which costs £29.99 for the Commodore Amiga and is also available in other formats. Players can compare their on-screen performance with those of all-time great Olympic athletes and train an Olympic team. From Psygnosis comes the Carl Lewis Challenge, costing £25.99 for the Amiga and available in other formats. This also offers you a chance to try your hand at team management, with a little help from a graphic depiction of the great sprinter.

Asda, Beatties, Tesco and Toys 'R' Us.

Pony grows up

A WORTHY successor to My Little Pony is Dazzle Pony, from Peter Pan Playthings. Dazzle Pony comes with pots of a Playdoh-like substance called Dazzlestuff, which can be moulded into horns, wings and saddles and studded with the "jewels", which are included in the set. Dazzle Pony costs £14.99, and there is also

a Dazzle Dragon at the same price.

Watch the ball

PARENTS and children alike will appreciate the beautiful range of high-quality wooden croquet sets on sale at Heals in Tottenham Court Road, London. These include a miniature set for children or for indoor use, costing £29.95, and full-sized ones starting at £44.50.

Holiday bargain

GEORGE Davies's mail-order Magalogue has just been joined by a holiday "mini-logue", in which prices have been slashed. Best bargains for children include a PVC hooded raincoat for £3, baseball boots for £5 and shortie dungarees in printed or embroidered fabric for £10 and £12 respectively. For those who have not yet learnt how to tie shoelaces, there are several styles of trainer with Velcro fastening from £3. For further details, telephone 0345 55 66 44.

Quiet play

PARENTS tired of the sound of electronic hand-held devices used by children to while away the time on journeys will be delighted that their childhood favourite, Etch-a-Sketch, is now available in a compact travel form. Etch-a-Sketch (8.99) requires no batteries, makes no noise and keeps children of all ages occupied.

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All interviews will be held during the first week in August 1992.

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MANAGEMENT

All change at the civil service

Clare Hogg looks at how the Next Step agencies are transforming old ministries

The British civil service has long been subject to searing criticism. A decade ago, General Sir Walter Walker summarised most complaints when he said: "Britain has invented a new missile. It's called the civil servant — it doesn't work and it can't be fired." Neither accusation would stick today.

Productivity figures for many parts of the civil service are up, while employee numbers are down. More importantly, the whole attitude and approach have changed. Entrepreneurial initiatives are being implemented; senior jobs are being advertised to "marked outsiders"; "customer surveys" are being carried out.

The Next Steps Project is at the core of this progress. In 1986, Margaret Thatcher, the then prime minister, asked Sir Robin Tibbe, her adviser on efficiency, to investigate why "after seven years of effort to improve management in the civil service, so much still needs to be done".

The problem that emerged was

that the whole organisation was still largely geared to providing policy advice to ministers. Sir Peter Kemp, the project manager for the Next Steps Programme, recalls: "It was not just one business, it was hundreds. There were small divisions, and there were huge battalions, such as social security benefits and the Land Registry, being run like one company. The whole thing was frankly daft."

The obvious, albeit radical, solution was to separate the executive functions of government from the policy-making role and organise them into units with more freedom to manage their own operation. Each "agency" was to have a specific man or woman in charge, and a customer-contractor relationship with the minister.

"This has meant recruiting externally, and, in individual cases, to negotiate external pay rates. Take

John Chisholm, the chief executive of the Defence Research Agency," Sir Peter says. "He probably has one of the most difficult jobs in British industry. His annual salary is £140,000, about twice what in the traditional civil service would have been thought right."

The new structure sounds the death knell for the traditional civil service career. Instead of seeing a comfortable, steady progression from one grade to another, senior civil servants are seeing jobs they had privately earmarked for themselves being publicly advertised. "A frisson goes through the system," Sir Peter says. "Some passengers will have a rough ride."

Indeed, there is little of the

traditional bureaucracy-bound civil servant about Sir Peter. He is frank about the difficulties. The relationship between the chief executive, the minister and the permanent secretary is ambiguous and can result in conflicts. To date, problems have been mostly solved by "common sense".

He agrees that there might be further tension "if an agency got into money trouble". Finally, the dilemma of how a minister can remain accountable to Parliament and retain responsibility, while at the same time delegating, is provoking heated debate.

Answering parliamentary ques-

tions and dealing with MPs' complaints and enquiries is an element of the job that Mike Fogden, the chief executive of the Employment Service, especially relishes: further evidence of the freedom conveyed by agency status.

Like the Next Steps programme, any of the changes he has introduced have been radical and obvious. In the past, for example, line managers had staff dumped on them. Now, they are a key part of the recruitment process. Mr Fogden has also arranged a pilot scheme for introducing supplementary pay for managers of tough inner city offices, a previously unheard-of discrepancy, and giving local managers responsibility for their own opening hours.

"The Morning Street office, which deals primarily with the hotel and catering industry, is now open on Saturdays and Sundays,"



Sir Peter Kemp, of Next Steps

he says. It is one of several comparisons that Mr Fogden makes with the private sector. He is setting up an advisory panel, the equivalent of non-executive directors, some of whom will come from chain store organisations, with which he feels synergy. He talks of

forging a strong corporate image for the employment service.

"You do not go into a pub and say you are a civil servant. I want people to feel proud that they are members of this employment service."

In terms of results, last year's target of 1,335,000 unemployed people placed was, a rueful Mr Fogden says, "missed by a whisker". In fact, the result was a significant achievement against a rise of 30 per cent unemployment and 18 per cent fewer vacancies. Other agencies are also producing impressive results. Companies House has increased productivity by 17 per cent in two years, cutting from 25 days to seven the time taken to record new companies. Passport applications now take seven days to process, rather than three and a half weeks.

Although now more than half the civil service is working in Next Step agencies (or similar), the process is still at an early stage. Mr Fogden says: "Watch our feet, not our lips."

New spring in the royal parks

A hot summer Sunday afternoon in Kensington Gardens draws the crowds to the circular boating lake favoured by the owners of sleek motor yachts and, equally expensive, acrobatic kites. On this occasion, however, the swans and onlookers have a new sight to observe: parks maintenance staff wading through the lake dragging lengths of algae from the waters.

The fact that the workers' overalls have the contractor's name emblazoned across them has caused more than a few ripples in the House of Commons. Bryan Gould, the Opposition environment spokesman, was in the forefront of a campaign to block moves to introduce competitive tendering to the royal parks. Michael Heseltine introduced the private sector to the London parks in the face of opposition.

A Channel 4 programme questioned the logic of the move, hinting that it had more to do with ideology than good management practice. The trade unions took up the cudgels for the 367 staff made redundant and questions were asked about the quality of service offered by the private sector. The royal family decided it wanted nothing to do with competitive tendering and the grounds of the royal palaces and Clarence House were quietly withdrawn from any tendering plans.

Despite this, the government has met its stringent, self-imposed timetable: the contracts were let and to the

In the wake of privatisation, Cliff Davis-Coleman finds a few grievances being nursed



Grimebuster collecting litter in St James's

surprise of many, it seems to work. The timetable for putting the parks to tender was announced in July 1991 and the start dates of the contracts eight months later. The civil service team used three sets of external consultants for the tendering process and put quality first.

"The thoroughness of the evaluation process we went through was impressive," John Jeffrey, the managing di-

rector of Serco Facilities, says. "It was not just the way in which we would run the contract, it was our philosophy, such as our career development opportunities for staff."

The environment department let the tenders, although the heritage ministry now has control. The tender documentation drew on the experience of tendering within local authorities. There are, however, one or two differences.

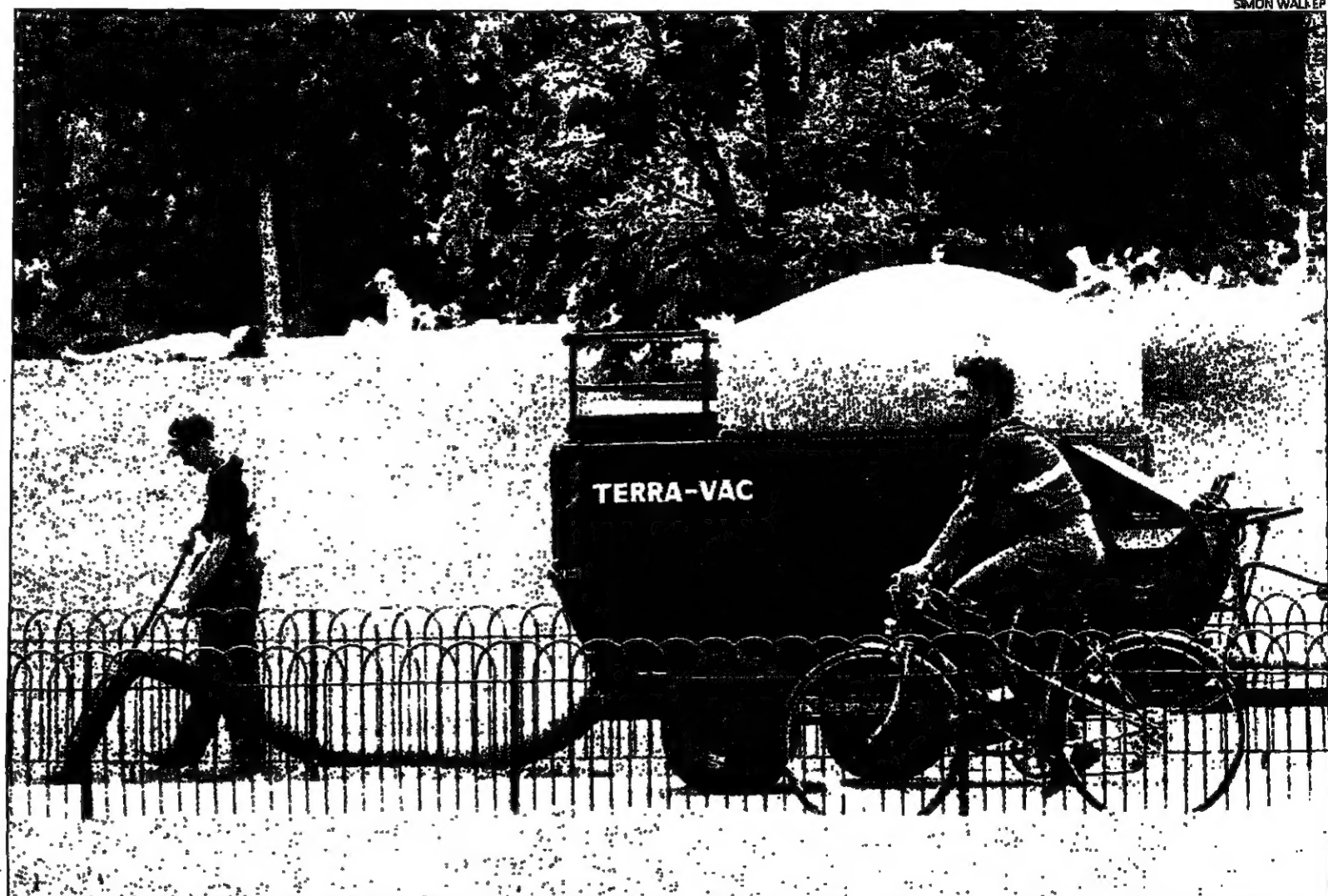
Town halls often demand financial guarantees from companies in the form of "performance bonds" as a means of guarding against default or the collapse of the contractor.

No such bonds were demanded for the royal parks. If the work does not come up to scratch, the contractor is warned. If the remedy does not satisfy, the contractor does not get paid.

Contractors have been obliged to take on apprentices and continue their training in accordance with guidelines laid down by the government, something that might be deemed anti-competitive if a local authority were to make similar demands.

Among the contractors, there is certainly a view that ministers were out to ensure not only value for money but also high standards of quality. Indeed the contractors' "guiding principles" clearly state that standards are to improve.

However, one problem seems to be that the high standards so vociferously defended by Mr Gould turned out to be something of a myth. Years of financial cutbacks,



St James's, in the heart of London, one of the capital's most beautiful parks: now private contractors are taking over the maintenance

coupled with a demoralised staff who realised that competitive tendering lay ahead, had taken their toll.

Financial success or failure for the new contractors rests on preparation before bids were made. When faults are spotted by monitoring teams, contractors are given an hour to put them right.

There has been a human cost in the privatisation process. Of the 367 people made

redundant, more than 60 per cent were taken on by contractors, but not all have remained. Mike Steward, the managing director of Tyler Environmental, attributes this partly to higher standards. "We asked them to work a little harder than they were used to," he comments.

Not every contractor is happy with the contract specification. Tony Hewitt, the managing director of Glen-

dale Industries, the company that runs St James's, Green, Bushey and Richmond parks, says: "There is a whole range of areas within the contract where things are not right: incorrectly specified or confused. And we have taken over parks where the workforce has been completely demoralised. Some of the things we have taken over are in a pretty poor state, particularly the weeding in rose beds and among shrubs."

We have priced it to maintain a certain standard. But how do we maintain a good client relationship and at the same time ask for more money?"

Aside from the sprinkling of trade names on plant and overalls, there is little evidence to suggest that the general park-using public are aware of the management transfer that has taken place.

Jennifer Adams, the super-

intendent of the central royal parks, maintains that there are still problems to be ironed out. "Some jobs are being done well indeed, other things less well, but I think a lot of this has to do with proper resources."

"It is getting better. Contractors are very responsive and keen to please. Most people are happy and things are looking good. The public are pleasantly surprised."

Tiptoe in a legal maze

Councils are now working on the managerial implications of the new style of tendering

Faced with the prospect of having to privatise up to a third of their legal work, local authorities are starting to consider the managerial implications of this new dimension of "white collar" competitive tendering.

Already local authorities are hiring consultants such as KPMG Peat Marwick to help to shape strategies for "contracting-out" exercises. Meanwhile, the legal departments of many councils are energetically reorganising themselves along more commercial lines in an effort to keep the work in-house. Because contracts for legal services will be awarded on the basis of quality and cost, specifications are being drawn up in detail.

Lack of experience on the bidders' part, however, is leading to a diverse range of responses. Local authorities that have sought bids have seen a bizarre spread of submissions and it is clearly going to take some time for the market to agree standard levels of fees and efficiency.

"I have been staggered by the figures being quoted by some lawyers who are after these contracts," one local authority insider says. "It is clear they are so desperate for the work that they are putting in unrealistic bids."

One problem is that con-



tracts may be awarded for up to three years and nobody can accurately predict the likely volume, nature or costs of the work over such a period. The danger is that successful bidders may discover they have under-priced their work and may want to cut corners on the quality of service. The theory is

that the efficiency of local authorities' legal departments — their "value for money" — still leaves much to be desired. This is challenged, however, by many of the consultants and lawyers who have worked alongside them.

"I have been very impressed by the local authority lawyers I have met," says Penny Knight, a KPMG Peat Marwick consultant working with councils on compulsory competitive tendering assignments. "There is a degree of dedi-

"We just could not afford to make the work cost-effective"

tion to the idea of public service and a level of efficiency and professionalism that would surprise those who have a low opinion of local government."

One of the big decisions that local authorities must make is which work is to be contracted out and how it is to be parcelled up.

In general, it is the more routine job such as conveyancing and "right to buy" that are most likely to go out, along with some civil litigation. The de-

fenders of privatisation say genuine benefits could arise if the work is taken on by automated niche legal practices with the expertise and computer services to outstrip in-house departments. However, there could also be real danger if more politically sensitive work is allocated to

lawyers who are naïve about how it should be handled.

For many years, complex or specialised work, particularly in planning and property, has been going to leading London practices. Nabarro Nathanson, the West End law firm, has, for example, more than 100 local authorities as clients and a well-established public sector department. It was involved, for example, in many of the large-scale town-centre redevelopments in the 1980s, and is the recognised expert on capital finance controls.

The routine work now being put out to tender is of little interest to Nabarro ("we just could not afford to do it cost-effectively") but the firm says that understanding the culture and the way of working within local authorities is critical to a successful relationship.

David Abram, a Nabarro partner, says: "If you do not know your way around councils, there can be plenty of pitfalls; it is essential that you understand their organisation structure and culture. For example, you could be receiving instructions from several sources. It can be perilous if councillors have one idea and officials another. Unless you get it clear from whom you get your instructions, you could get into difficulty."

"Our view is that as lawyers we should not start working with members above the heads of officials."

Good advice, but if contracted-out legal services become a political football, it may take diplomatic sensitivity as well as legal skills to keep the client satisfied.

EDWARD FENNELL

Voluntary bodies are becoming more professional to meet today's demands

Britain's charities are getting tough. A new management philosophy is invading the thousands of voluntary organisations that supply non-statutory welfare alongside the big state-funded agencies, such as the NHS.

After years of running their own shows, often with the aid of large grants from councils and government departments, charities such as Age Concern and Mencap are being brought to book. They are being forced to become more accountable, more business-like and more competitive.

The new commercialism in the voluntary sector, encouraged by the government, goes hand in hand with a trend towards shifting welfare services away from local authorities. This has met with a mixed reaction from voluntary service managers. Some believe it heralds more privatisation. Others welcome a new entrepreneurial spirit.

The change has affected charities at every level. Age Concern, for example, relies on grants from local authorities to help it to run day centres and other projects for the elderly. Until now, the charity has been given the money and told to get on with the job.

Increasingly, however, local Age Concern management

committees have had to justify their spending. They have been asked to draw up tight contracts and more accurate costings. In a few areas, they have taken on services previously run by local councils.

The result has been a management problem for charities and their local organisers, as they have struggled to come to terms with their new role and the effects of what has become known as the "contract culture".

Margaret Harris, the assistant director of the Centre for Voluntary Organisation at the London School of Economics, says: "There has been an enormous impact in terms of rapid organisational change, and all that brings with it in terms of management style and accounting. A mental health group which used to meet for a cosy afternoon chat can find itself running a residential home."

SEVEN years ago, Crossroads Care was invited to bid for a contract to look after the disabled in Cambridgeshire. The service agreement it reached with the health and social services authorities was among the first of its kind.

This nationwide charity provides respite care for the chronically ill or disabled so that relatives can take a break. Before Crossroads took it over, the task was done by home helps and district

Business edge for charities

nurses. Lyn Fretwell, the coordinator believes the job is being done more efficiently now, providing better care while releasing staff to deal with other patients.

However, she concedes management problems: "One of the most important changes we had to make was to bring professionally qualified people on to our management committee," she says.

The management committee of 16 is about a third carers, a third with a background in health services, and a third people with social services expertise.

One key appointment to the unpaid committee was a professional voluntary ser-

vice coordinator, whose expertise has enabled the charity to hammer out proper service contracts and make realistic bids for further funding.

South and East Cambridgeshire Crossroads is expanding with a guaranteed £93,000 a year in grants to care for 90 families in Ely. Since November the charity has "sold" £5,000 worth of respite care to 12 families, some with private incomes.

Charity campaigns for more funds

expand their role," Mrs Harris says.

In overall provision, the switch from state funding is not as great as it appears. Charity managers say it is misleading to pretend that charities are doing more and the state less. The pot of money is about the same, but it is distributed in a different way.

Mrs Harris says: "People have the idea that enormous handovers have taken place. They have not. Because of the way welfare is structured in this country, it never could."

Age Concern, one of Britain's biggest charities, is so keen to heed the revolution that it has set up a central contracts unit to advise staff. Bob Anderson, its manager, says that the notion that charities were "rushing round getting big contracts" was a myth.

He says: "Most of it is about changing the way things are done, not starting big new projects. We have got to be a lot more businesslike. When a group signs a contract with a local authority you have made sure you are around in three years' time to deliver."

"You cannot get by on guesswork and a fairy godmother any more."

MICHAEL DURHAM

Written, produced and directed buy

Adrian Hill wrote a novel, but nobody would publish it. So he had it printed and distributed himself, Barry Turner reports

A new novel by a new writer is now on sale. This is unusual enough in these days of glitzy marketing, when every writer must have star appeal. But Adrian Hill's *The Tiger Pit* is exceptional in another sense. It does not have a publisher; or rather, it is published by the author.

For the past six months, he says, he has performed as editor, agent, publicist, sales rep, accountant, secretary and tea boy. But if the book is a success — and the chief buyers at W.H. Smith and Penzance are among those who believe it will be — Mr Hill's exertions could pay off very handsomely indeed.

The Tiger Pit is a thriller centred on the 1988 Olympic Games in South Korea, a subject and a country the author portrays from first-hand experience as one of Britain's Olympic attaches, a job which ranged from organising security for the Princess Royal's visit to ensuring the supply of Johnson's baby oil to the British athletes. He also kept a close eye on the political scandal and corruption behind the scenes.

"After the Games, I took events and began shaping them into a spy story," he says. "The book is not simply about the Olympics. There is a lot on the South Koreans' struggle to keep alive a fragile democracy."

The setting is dramatic, with a trigger-happy South Korean military nervously anticipating a violent spilling exercise launched from the communist north. The idea has its basis in fact. "The prospect of a massive ground attack

from the North was seriously considered," Mr Hill says, "but the real fear was of an assassination attempt on some leading figure."

Imagining Mr Hill as a Foreign Office trouble-shooter is easy. He comes across as the perfect diplomat, unfailingly optimistic, ready to believe that any problem can be solved given a modicum of good

will and the application of common sense. But an underlying *Boy's Own* love of adventure frequently bubbles to the surface.

His career was a succession of often-dangerous postings, starting with Lahore in 1965 when he was caught up in the war between India and Pakistan and had to keep his head down for 17 days while a tank battle raged about the city. Later, he found himself in troubled Cyprus, before going to Vietnam, just in time for the American military build-up. It is not altogether surprising to find that his hobby is freetail parachuting.

Korea was his penultimate post-

ing. He ended up quietly, in Jamaica, where he put the finishing touches to *The Tiger Pit*. Three publishers — Heinemann, Random Century and Pan Macmillan — turned it down flat. Nobody actually said that the book was badly written but there were the usual worries about trying to launch a first-time author in a less than buoyant market.

What annoyed Mr Hill was the publishers' failure to see any promotional link to the Barcelona Olympics.

"They couldn't understand that all the publicity might help to sell a few books," he says.

At this point it occurred to him that he might be able to do without a conventional publisher. He was wise to the dreadful things that can happen to authors who fall into the grip of vanity publishers, the sort who promise the earth for a sizeable cheque up front. Instead, he went direct to W.H. Smith.

Martin Lee, who is in charge of buying adult books for W.H. Smith, liked *The Tiger Pit* a lot and was prepared to say so. "I am ready to judge any book on its merits," Mr Lee says. "It can come from a big publisher or from an individual. The source does not determine the verdict."

Fiona Kennedy, W.H. Smith's paperback buyer, came in with advice on printing, design and format. Friends rallied round, one to proof-read the manuscript, another to design the jacket. Media friends such as Trevor McDonald, the ITN television news reader, and Brian Barron of the BBC, who



Keeping it in the family: *The Tiger Pit*'s jacket photograph of Adrian Hill was taken at his home in Switzerland by his son, Julian

covered the Seoul Olympics, obliged with flattering publicity quotes.

Now, with completed copies in front of her, Ms Kennedy remains enthusiastic. "It is a good story and well written. Adrian has listened to our suggestions and has acted on them. I had a good feel about this book right from the start."

W.H. Smith has put in a firm order for 6,500 paperbacks, 1,500

of which will be sold from the prime sites at the big airports. If the customers bite, W.H. Smith will keep 50 per cent of the proceeds; terms which are pretty well standard for all publishers. Smaller orders have come in from Penzance and Waterstone's.

Mr Hill will need to sell two-thirds of his print run to cover a relatively modest £5,000 investment. But his printer is letting him

have 60 days' credit, the time it takes for a first payment to come from the booksellers. "With a bit of luck," he says, "I should be able to avoid an overdraft."

If *The Tiger Pit* is well-received, will it lead to a rash of self-publishing? Mr Lee thinks not. "The author who goes in for publishing needs to be able to replicate all the skills of a publisher. There aren't many authors around

who know about marketing or production. He is an interesting exception."

Predictably, Mr Hill has been besieged by would-be authors who want him to help them transform their work into print. If he fires of writing, he could wind up as a regular publisher, albeit one with a somewhat different imagination. ● *The Tiger Pit* is published by Whydown Books (£4.99).

Falling circulations and price increases mean gloom for the once-soaraway tabloids

Sunsets and dwindling Stars

Will golden days ever return for mass market newspapers? The downward trend in sales has been so constant over the past 18 months that editors and proprietors must now dig deeper into the statistics to find even a glimmer of hope.

Optimists might claim they can detect nuggets in the June sales figures published by the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC). I suspect, however, they will soon discover they have been mining for iron pyrites.

Last month *The Sun* sold an average of 3,517,071 papers a day, 117,749 fewer copies than in the same month last year. Long gone are those times when the nation's biggest-selling tabloid reported sales of more than 4.2 million.

More worrying still for Kelvin MacKenzie, the editor of *The Sun*, is that the circulation of his main competitor, the *Daily Mirror*, has started to decline at a slower rate, down 68,333 copies over the same period. By adding on the circulation of its Scottish stablemate, the *Daily Record*, for a total sale of 3,596,544, the *Mirror* has been quick to trumpet that it is now leading the field, although boasting of such victories seems hollow when the total market continues to decline.

The third tabloid title, the *Daily Star*, has become rather a little twinkle, losing a further 4.6 per cent of its sales. At a circulation of 815,762 it barely merits description as a popular newspaper.

However, these three titles are facing a fresh challenge in the next few weeks. The *Daily Mirror's* cover price increased by 2p yesterday to 27p, its first rise since October 1990. Although *The Sun*

DAILY DILEMMAS					
Paper	Av Daily Sale, June '92	Compared to June '91	% +/-	Market Share All Titles %	
<i>Sun</i>	3,517,071	-117,749	-3.24	24.80	
<i>Mirror</i>	2,943,568	-68,333	-2.32	20.05	
<i>Express</i>	1,548,445	-11,795	-0.78	10.82	
<i>Mail</i>	1,718,741	14,619	0.86	12.10	
<i>Star</i>	815,762	-47,702	-5.72	5.75	
<i>Today</i>	485,744	21,893	4.51	3.50	
<i>Record</i>	752,975	1,421	0.19	5.31	
Total Popular	11,880,307	-189,708	-1.59	82.43	
<i>Times</i>	386,683	-2,835	-0.72	2.75	
<i>Telegraph</i>	1,030,130	-21,822	-2.08	7.28	
<i>Guardian</i>	403,125	-8,844	-2.21	2.84	
<i>Independent</i>	574,150	-3,112	-0.52	4.24	
<i>Fin. Times</i>	282,377	5,008	1.72	2.08	
Total Quality	2,492,485	-32,805	-1.30	17.57	
Grand Total	14,182,792	-222,511	-1.61	100%	

poked fun at its rival for this increase — declaring it was to pay "for Robert Maxwell's thievery" — the joke will not last long. In the face of falling revenue *The Sun* must follow suit very soon. Inevitably, therefore, the decline will continue, and if recession is the major reason for falling sales, then the gloomy economic outlook suggests this phenomenon has a long way yet to run.

SLOW SUNDAYS					
Paper	Av Sunday Sale, June '92	Compared to June '91	% +/-	Market Share All Titles %	
<i>N.O.W.</i>	4,683,512	-116,588	-2.44	29.02	
<i>People</i>	2,095,011	-182,775	-8.02	13.04	
<i>S. Mirror</i>	2,714,679	-57,781	-2.08	16.99	
<i>S. Express</i>	1,676,333	36,416	2.24	10.43	
<i>Mail On Sunday</i>	1,892,535	355	0.02	11.78	
<i>S. Sport</i>	294,565	-70,467	-19.30	1.83	
Total Popular	13,337,235	-368,670	-2.83	82.98	
<i>S. Times</i>	1,288,698	131,623	10.21	7.90	
<i>Observer</i>	518,257	-61,627	-11.90	3.22	
<i>S. Telegraph</i>	561,819	6,338	1.14	3.49	
<i>Independent</i>	364,035	16,310	4.44	2.38	
Total Quality	2,733,807	10,284	0.39	17.01	
Grand Total	16,071,042	-298,228	-1.75	100%	

Sources: ABC

These woes are not affecting the middle market tabloids where the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* remain steady, and *Today* has turned the corner, heading back towards 500,000.

At the top end of the market, there is a bitter sales war between *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. All but *The Times* suffered minor losses in June.

The Sunday market, which is always more volatile, tells a similar story among the mass market titles, where all sustained losses in June.

There must be a special concern at *The People*, which lost more than 8 per cent of its sales in a year and is hovering just above the 2 million mark. By the end of the year it is possible to imagine it might be overtaken by both its middle market rivals, the revitalised tabloid Sunday Express and the Mail on Sunday, which is offering discounted copies to buyers in certain regions.

Turning to the qualities, perhaps the most stunning circulation figure is that of *The Sunday Times*, which leapt almost 12 per cent in the year while the *Observer*, its main rival, lost 9 per cent. This despite the newspaper coming under attack for serialising *Diana: Her True Story*. Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales. Readers were supposed to be cancelling their orders.

True, the *Independent* on Sunday put on 16,000 extra sales, but that is hardly much of a protest in the light of *The Sunday Times*' average sale of 1,269,896.

ROY GREENSLADE
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Don't rubbish junk

Humble pie is not a dish we advertising men find terribly toothsome. But when we have been publicly proved wrong — as I have just been in a dispute over direct mail advertising — it behooves us to gulp down our gruel without grumbling.

Direct mail advertising (the posh name for junk mail) is of course a huge and still-burgeoning business. However it is not nearly so huge, nor so rapidly burgeoning, as you probably think. It accounts for just 10 per cent of all advertising expenditure and, after a decade of growth, it has proved far from recession-proof. Last year the total number of junk mailings dropped by 8 per cent.

In fact, the average British home receives fewer than six items of postal publicity per month. That's about half what the lucky Belgians, Swedes and Germans get, and accounts for less than a fifth of all the pulped forestry that Postman Pat stuffs through your letterbox each year.

Six letters a month hardly sounds like an intolerable bombardment of unwelcome correspondence, yet market research surveys have consistently shown mailings to be much more unpopular than any other form of advertising.

The surveys have shown that people dislike them for a plethora of reasons. Sometimes letters arrive addressed to people who have moved away ages ago, which is annoying, or addressed to relatives who have recently died, which is upsetting. Some people deplore the waste of paper, some worry about the security risks when letters pile up during their holidays, some hate the futility of the cloying copy, some feel queasy about how their names and

addresses have been obtained. But above all many people feel it to be an invasion of their privacy; letters should be private things, they believe, not manipulative commercial bludge.

For these reasons there has for some years been a growing pressure to control the excesses of marketing by mail, supported by

consumer's groups, by the Office of Fair Trading and by the Registrar of Data Protection.

Powerful pressure was exerted on the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to take responsibility for controlling the use (or rather misuse) of consumer databases — the posh name for mailing lists.

This is where the humble pie gets eaten. As a member of the ASA council I fought the proposal tooth and claw. Running my own little direct mail campaign I sent endless (and doubtless unwelcome) dissenting letters to all and sundry. I argued that the ASA simply could not stop lists being misused.

For a start, anybody has the legal right to obtain a telephone directory, an electoral register or

Who's Who and set their word processor to work. Secondly, a lot of junk mail emanates from abroad. Thirdly, the ASA would be unable to impose realistic sanctions on transgressors. Fourthly, I feared that the deluge of extra work would swamp the ASA's decidedly finite resources.

I seem to have been wrong on all counts. Despite the brilliance of my polemical epistles the ASA agreed to take over responsibility for controlling direct mail advertising last January. In the subsequent six months there have been a mere 200 complaints, all of which have been dealt with more than adequately. For comparison purposes, the Benetton posters generated high on 1,000 complaints a fortnight.

So it's market research-knocking time again. As Neil Kinnock discovered, people may complain to politicians — whether about the government or about direct mail advertising — but that does not mean they will necessarily take any action when given the chance.

There remains the final question: does direct mail work, or is it just a hideous waste of good timber? As Ross Perot said last week, we all throw it all away without even opening it, don't we? No, we don't. More than 80 per cent of recipients do open the impersonal personalised envelopes, and more than 60 per cent read the contents.

More emphatically, direct mail is the most quantifiable of all forms of advertising. Its users know precisely how much it costs them and precisely how much it sells. If it did not work they would not keep doing it, and it works because we all respond from time to time. So it's not as unworkable as all that. QED.

SELLING POINT
Winston Fletcher



American news agencies trail united states of Europe

New York is no longer the centre of the world's news-gathering — European cities, particularly London, now lead the way

The United States is no longer the world No 1 in either print or video news. Europe, led by Britain, has taken over. From 1945 to about 1980 the world's daily news agenda was set by a handful of major New York news organisations. The Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI) together outgunned the other world news agencies: Reuters, of Britain, and Agence France Presse (AFP). Three strong American television networks provided the world with most of its newscast coverage.

Since 1980, however, and especially since 1990, all of this has changed. UPI, in particular, has slipped back, and the television networks have all severely cut their foreign coverage.

The American networks have been overtaken by European media as producers and sellers of foreign news. Europe, with its numerous national television channels and strong capital-city newspapers, has become the leading market for foreign news.

Europe has also become the leading subject of foreign news. Eastern Europe has been the premier story of the past few years. No other region of the world can rival the combined news interest of

Moscow, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Madrid, Paris and London. Yoel Cohen, an Israeli academic, reports that 14 of the world's 20 leading foreign news centres are in Europe.

Traditionally, UPI was the strongest news agency in Latin America, followed by AP and AFP. Now, in Latin America, a lone AP competes not only against AFP, but also against a rejuvenated Reuters. Meanwhile, EFE, the Spanish agency, is having some success in its attempt to become the leading news agency in the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world.

In the Middle East Reuters has been the leading news agency for 120 years. Across the Arab world the most listened-to and most respected foreign radios are the French Radio Monte Carlo and the BBC World Service.

The Voice of America in particular, and American news services in general, are widely perceived by Arabs to be too gung-ho American and too pro-Israel, while British and French news services are seen as being more balanced.

Reuters and AP are now the only two world super-agencies. Both supply financial data, as well as fast news for the media. But Reuters has gone much further in this



Hot-spotting: A Serbian soldier runs for cover — and a Reuters photograph shows the action to the world

direction and is now a bigger enterprise than AP.

Reuters obtains over 90 per cent of its revenue from on-screen financial data, but has also strengthened its general news service. It now offers — in competition with AP — one of the two world-wide news picture services.

The same situation — two companies dominating the market — also prevails in video news. The leading agency is the London-based Visnews, owned by Reuters

(51 per cent), NBC, the American network (37.75 per cent) and the BBC (11.25 per cent).

Visnews transmits an edited mix of BBC, NBC and its own news via a complex rota of daily satellite feeds around the world. Its output carries "natural" sound (such as gunfire) but a written script is supplied to be edited and "voiced" by the journalists at the receiving customer network.

Visnews claims that its video news is seen on a daily basis by

nearly everyone in the world who watches television news, a potential total of 1.5 billion people. Visnews must be about the world's most widely and frequently consumed, but least recognised, product.

Visnews probably employs about twice as many people as the second video news agency, Worldwide Television News (WTN). Britain's ITN previously played a major role in UPTN, which later became WTN; but today WTN is 80 per cent owned by ABC, the American

network, while ITN and the Australian Channel 9 each own 10 per cent.

Television coverage of major foreign stories is now dominated by Visnews and WTN. The high profile Cable News Network (CNN) is the leader in bravura self-promotion, but is only a supporting player in the agency business within the WTN camp. Both the Visnews and WTN groups establish their separate "dub cities" in appropriate hotels on major crisis stories; the Visnews group members — Visnews, NBC and BBC — will swap footage with each other and other Visnews customers which have camera crews on site.

The resulting edited packages are then voiced and subtitled home. Today, all networks mix and match footage from various sources, including their own personnel. Within Europe, of course, national television networks also have access to the Eurovision daily news exchanges.

Europe has much the largest number of satellite players in the world news game, both general news agency operations and video news. The Eurovision news exchange is increasingly paralleled by a number of European groupings of newspapers which sell and exchange news and features.

The leading American grouping in foreign news is AP/Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal. But in Europe, and, I believe, in the world, Reuters/Visnews/BBC is paramount. Visnews, the leading video

news agency, has its own bureaux around the world, often located within, or next door to, the Reuters office, and can rely on Reuters for basic news as well as its sophisticated telecommunications and financial data systems. The BBC office may also be in the same building or across the street.

The BBC itself has several layers of foreign news provision. It has its own television bureaux in major centres; domestic BBC radio has a larger team of foreign correspondents who also do some television work; the BBC World Service has its own team of staff correspondents and radio "stringers". Then there is the BBC monitoring service, and current-affairs programmes such as *Assignment*, *Panorama* and *Newsnight* do their own special foreign reports.

The availability of these multiple foreign news supplies has, in addition to Visnews, enabled the BBC's channel on the Hong Kong-based Star satellite system to offer appealing news coverage to cable subscribers in New Delhi and across Asia.

JEREMY TUNSTALL

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